

British Battle Insignia (2): 1939-45



355.14

OSP - 187

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Published in 1987 by
Osprey Publishing Ltd
Member company of the George Philip Group
12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP
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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Chappell, Mike

British battle insignia.—(Men-at-arms series; 187)

2: 1939-45

1. Great Britain. *Army*—Insignia—History

I. Title II. Series

355.1'4 UC535.G7

ISBN 0-85045-739-4

Filmset in Great Britain

Printed through Bookbuilders Ltd, Hong Kong

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Introduction

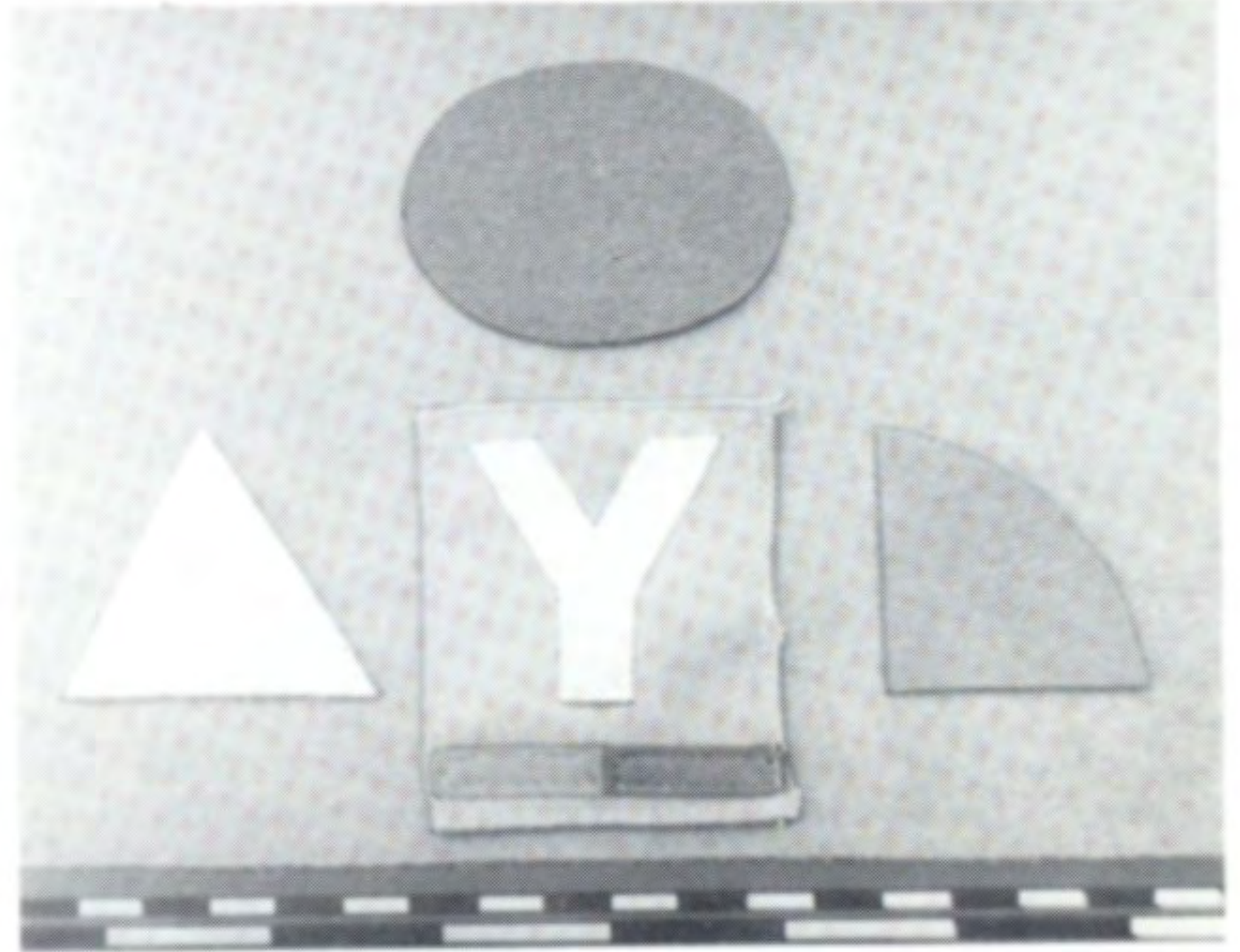
This book is a sequel to MAA 182, *British Battle Insignia (1): 1914-18*, and traces the story of the battle insignia worn by the British Army through the interwar years and the Second World War up to the end of 1945.

The definition of battle insignia for the 1939-45 period is exactly the same as in the previous book: 'those devices worn on uniform and displayed upon flags, signboards, vehicles and guns to indicate unit or formation to those who needed to know the identity, whilst concealing the same from enemy Intelligence'.

In order to make the best use of the space available it has been decided to limit the coverage of formations to infantry and armoured divisions: airborne, Commando and other special service troops are not covered in this present book.

Regulations and terminology

In the Second World War valiant attempts were made by the War Office at first to ban, and then to regulate schemes of battle insignia in order to avoid the anarchy that had prevailed in this area in the Great War. After orders forbidding battle insignia had been flaunted, regulations and instructions were promulgated at various times authorising items of battle insignia and giving them names such as 'shoulder designations', 'formation badges', 'arm-of-service distinguishing marks', etc. These names were rarely the same as those which the soldiers used. In such cases the popular or common terms are those used throughout this book. Examples of the War Office regulations for battle insignia being ignored, contradicted or defied are too numerous to mention. Studied today, they tell us what *should* have been worn or displayed; what was *actually* worn is quite another story, which this book sets out to tell.



'Locally made' divisional signs. The 44th (top—cf. Plate B2), 1st (left—cf. Plates B1, C6), 5th (centre—cf. Plate C) and 4th (right—1939 form—cf. Plate B) chose divisional signs for wear on uniform that were simple to manufacture, as these examples show. (Note: a centimetre/inch scale is reproduced below examples of insignia, most of which are from the collection of Mr. W. Hughes of Crookham, Hampshire.)

British Army dress and insignia 1919-39

With the ending of hostilities in 1918 the British Army commenced a run-down in its strength to peacetime levels. By the early 1920s this process was complete, with a reconstituted Regular Army—slightly below 1914 strength—garrisoning India and other outposts of the empire, and a re-formed Territorial Army for home defence. Britain had returned to the 'proper soldiering' enjoyed by the Regular Army prior to August 1914.

Not entirely, however. With the country almost bankrupt after more than four years of war, economies had to be made. One of these was to abandon the splendour of the full dress issued to the British Army up to the outbreak of the Great War. It was decided that in future the sole uniform of the British Army would remain the drab (almost universally known as 'khaki') Service Dress in which it had fought the recent war. Apart from bands, the Brigade of Guards and a few other

exceptions the red coat of the British soldier would no longer be a general issue, and Service Dress was to take its place as a uniform for ceremonial and walking-out, as well as for all other duties with the exception of fatigues.

Service Dress had been designed as an active service field uniform. It needed considerable smartening-up to make it presentable enough to take the place of the traditional full dress. Two suits of Service Dress were therefore issued to each soldier, with one kept loose-fitting for active service and the other tailored close-fitting for barrack wear. In time both suits were tailored to the same snug (and constricting) fit, a practice officially condoned in the mid-1920s when uniform contractors were ordered to cut and make up Service Dress to new size specifications to produce the required fit on issue. Wire grommets were ordered back into the crowns of SD caps, even those of the 1917-pattern 'soft' cap, in the interests of parade-ground

uniformity; and waist belts, bayonet frogs and rifle-slings of the Slade-Wallace white buff equipment were issued for wear on parade and for walking-out. Infantry warrant officers and sergeants were ordered to wear red sashes with Service Dress on parades, etc; and medals were permitted to be worn on ceremonial occasions with Service Dress. (Oddly, black boots were now issued to other ranks. During the year when the British Army had been universally issued with full dress, two pairs of brown ankle boots had been issued to foot soldiers. One pair were then blackened for wear with full dress and the other pair were kept greased [brown] for wear with Service Dress. Now, in the 1920s, with only a tiny proportion of the Army in possession of full dress, all ankle boots were ordered to be made from black leather. Officers continued to wear brown boots with their Service Dress.)

One of the first moves in the 'smartening-up' process adopted for Service Dress was the removal of the battle insignia of the late war. This disappeared as the formations who wore it were demobilised, or it was ordered off the sleeves of the few Regular formations who had adopted it. When wound stripes and overseas service chevrons were abolished in 1922 the last of the battle insignia of 1914-18 vanished from the uniforms of the British Regular Army, as had the devices painted on their vehicles and signboards. By now, only regimental badges and titles and badges of rank, trade and proficiency were worn on uniform, in much the same way as they had been up until 1914/15.

Only in the Territorial Army was the wearing of battle insignia kept up. In the 51st Highland Division every man proudly wore the 'HD' device on his sleeves; the men of the 52nd Lowland Division wore the device of a black 'L' with the cross of St Andrew and a thistle; the 42nd East Lancashire Division kept their numbered diamond scheme; the 47th London Division wore the 'Dutch Tile' sign; the 49th West Riding Division wore the white rose appropriate to their county, and the 55th West Lancashire Division continued to wear the red rose emblem which they had adopted in 1916.

Regimental collar badges were taken into use for wear on Service Dress by other ranks in the 1920s, a distinction previously the privilege of officers only. Other attempts to add colour to what was intended to be an unobtrusive form of dress included the

Battle insignia 1941/42. The 61st Div. (left—red diamond on blue) adopted the practice of 'splitting' the red arm-of-service/brigade indicator strips to show the seniority of battalions. Here, the third, junior battalion of the second, intermediate brigade is indicated: the 4th Northhamptons—whose black regimental flash is at the bottom of the 'patch' of insignia. (Battle insignia was frequently mounted in this way, for easy attachment to and removal from blouse sleeves.)

The 38th (Irish) Bde. were the infantry element of the 6th Armcd.Div. when it landed in Tunisia in November 1942. At right the brigade sign of the 38th, a green shamrock, is displayed below the black-and-white divisional sign of the 6th Armoured and a red infantry arm-of-service strip.



wearing of lanyards and coloured badges of rank, trade and proficiency.

Prior to 1914 officers of only two regiments had officially worn lanyards (sometimes called whistle cords, etc) with Service Dress: the Cameronians, with a black lanyard, and the KOYLI with a green lanyard. In both cases they were worn around the neck connecting to a whistle carried in a breast pocket. During the Great War the fashion caught on, most officers equipping themselves with drab lanyards and some regiments opting for lanyards in a regimental colour. Between the wars the fashion of the trenches was formalised, with most regiments now choosing to wear lanyards opting to wear them around the left shoulder. Notable among these were the Duke of Wellington's with a red lanyard, the North Staffords with a black lanyard, and various Light Infantry regiments with green lanyards. In some of these regiments the privilege of wearing lanyards was extended to warrant officers and sometimes to sergeants, but never to soldiers below the rank of sergeant.

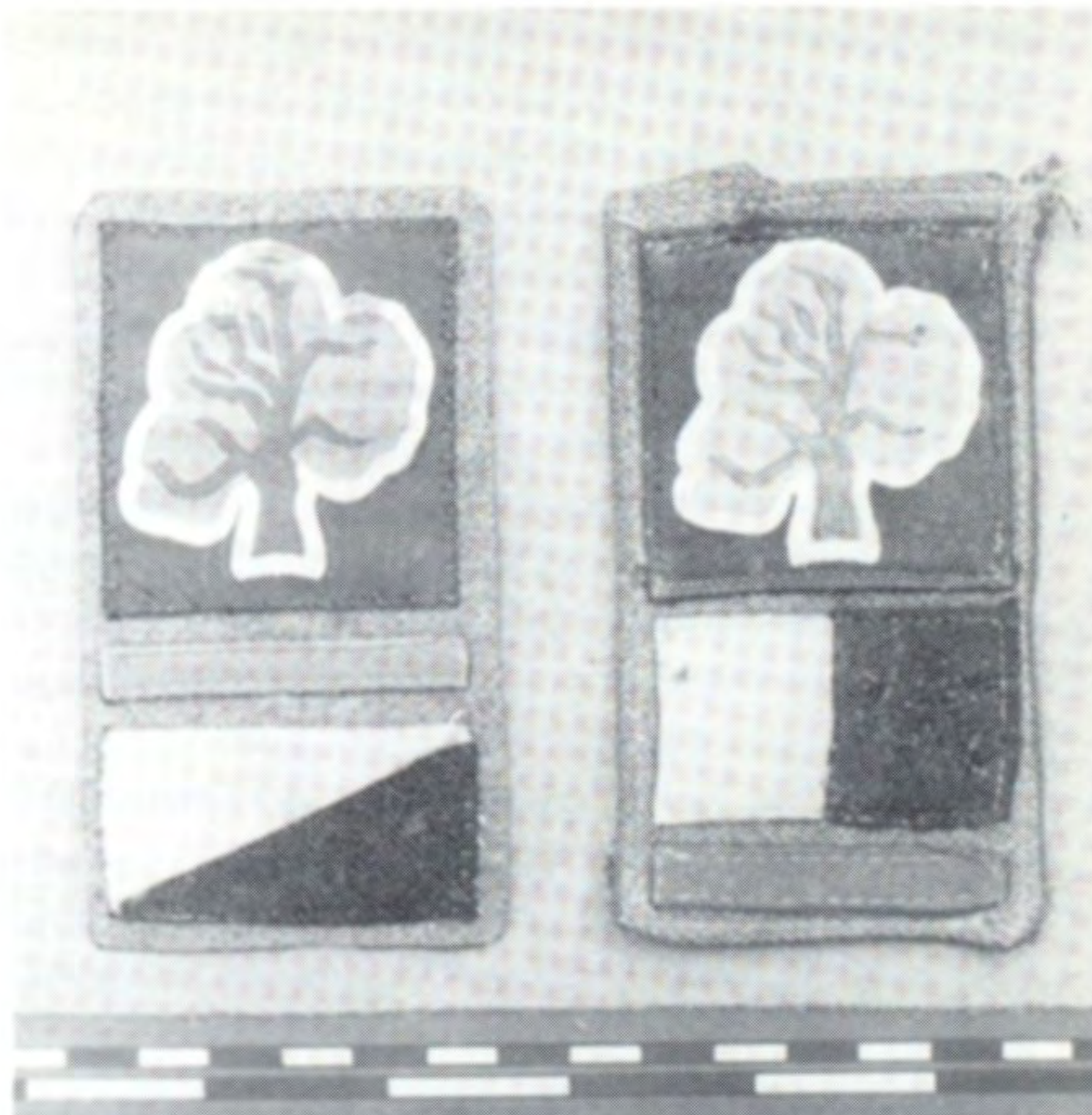
Other ranks had been issued with whipcord lanyards attached to the regulation jackknife prior to 1914. These were worn around the shoulder in the manner of officers' 'cords', and then scrubbed, blanched white and plaited in various ways to obtain a smart appearance. White lanyards were eventually adopted officially for the other ranks of the Royal Artillery and certain other regiments.

By the time Battledress was authorised in the late 1930s, Service Dress had evolved from the shapeless but comfortable uniform of the Great War to a smart but constricting dress, much embellished by insignia of one sort or another. Except as mentioned for certain TA formations, none of this insignia was 'battle insignia', and little of it was destined to be transferred to the sleeves of Battledress.

Battledress

With the introduction of Battledress the British military authorities had every reason to believe they had at last triumphed in a long and arduous struggle to achieve uniformity of dress in the British Army.

All soldiers—officers and other ranks, Scots, dismounted cavalymen, Riflemen, Guardsmen, etc.—would, in Battledress, merge into shapeless anonymity on the battlefield, with nothing but the



The 128th (Hampshire) Inf.Bde. consisted—unusually—of three battalions of the Hampshire Regt.; the brigade went to North Africa with the 46th Div. in January 1943. At left is the battle insignia of the 2nd/4th Hampshires at that time; at right is the insignia worn by the 1st/4th Hampshires in Italy in 1945. Note the differing regimental flashes (coloured amber and black) and the incorrect positioning of the arm-of-service strip in the second example. Cf. Plates C2, D6.

odd badge of rank to mar authority's dream. Security—the prevention of the identification by the enemy of British units and formations—was a prime consideration of the planners. It had in the past been only too easy to obtain information from the observation of British uniform and insignia. The Battledress era certainly started as one of almost total uniformity and security; but by 1945 Battledress had been transformed into one of the most soldierly uniforms in the world, and was being worn by a victorious British Army with a kaleidoscopic display of coloured hats, badges, lanyards and battle insignia which, of course, had the effect of negating the original intentions of the designers. Once again the British soldier had demonstrated that he was, in matters of dress, a dandy; prepared to go to extremes—with or without official approval—to cut a dash in uniform.

But this was not foreseen in 1939. To start with, few of the insignia authorised for Service Dress were approved for wear with Battledress. The only metal insignia was the cap badge—worn in the Field

Service, or 'side' cap. Collar badges and metal shoulder titles were not to be worn, their places as regimental designations being taken for other ranks by drab 'slip-on' epaulette slides with abbreviated regimental and corps titles embroidered in black thread; whilst only drab worsted badges of rank, trade, and proficiency were to be worn.

Photographs of the 1939/40 period show that these rules were immediately broken, with officers, warrant officers and staff sergeants wearing metal badges of rank; metal shoulder titles and trade badges being worn; and a variety of coloured rank and proficiency badges previously authorised for Service Dress being displayed on Battledress. Shortages, and the fact that part of the army was still clothed in Service Dress during the opening months of the war, added to a confused situation, and it was at this time that battle insignia began to reappear on British Army uniform.

British Battle Insignia *1939-45*

The first items of battle insignia to be adopted by the British Army in the Second World War were the divisional signs painted on the vehicles of the British Expeditionary Force in late 1939. Of the 14 infantry divisions which comprised the BEF in the late spring of 1940, all had existed in the Great War, and all but the 44th Home Counties had a divisional sign in that conflict. Now, in 1939/40, all were ordered to adopt new signs. Of these only four bore faint similarities to the former signs: the white triangle of the 1st Division, the red and white diamond of the 42nd, the diamond shape of the 48th and the St Andrew's cross of the 52nd. Divisions like the 51st Highland, who pleaded to keep their traditional signs, were firmly ordered to choose another in the interests of security. (The 51st chose a stag's head on a green and purple background, but determined to revert to their beloved 'HD' as soon as an opportunity permitted.)

The adoption of divisional signs for transport traffic control was grudgingly accepted as necessary by a War Office determined to suppress battle insignia in the interests of security. Surprising as it

now seems, the Regular Army—having got rid of divisional signs after the Great War—went back to the pre-1914 practice of painting the unit title on the sides of vehicles. This form of advertising was rapidly dispensed with in 1939, and replaced with the divisional signs mentioned, along with a system of numbering to indicate units within the division. These battle insignia were usually painted on the front and rear of vehicles, but examples have been noted painted on vehicle sides in the manner of the previous war.

Early in 1940 the first schemes of battle insignia on uniform began to manifest themselves in the BEF. Leading the field were the irrepressible 51st Highland Division, who—having been deprived of the kilt and their 'HD' divisional sign—were determined to have a uniform distinction to relieve the anonymity of Battledress. They chose a St Andrew's cross, which was worn by all ranks in a variety of colours to indicate brigades etc. within the division, with bars below to indicate units within brigades. Other divisions permitted the wearing of 'flashes'—patches of cloth in regimental colours—to distinguish units from each other; and the 'P' patch of the 'Phantom' Signal Regt. began to be seen.

This growing trend alarmed the War Office who, in April 1940, issued an order forbidding the wearing of divisional insignia stating that 'Divisional Signs or badges will not be worn by British divisions during the war'. But if the authorities were determined to maintain the security value of Battledress, the officers and men condemned to wear it were equally determined to provide themselves with the means to set themselves apart from the drab herd.

As early as October 1939 the Commander-in-Chief of the BEF was in communication with the War Office to recommend that officers' ranking be made more readily distinguishable on Battledress, and pointing out that infantry *esprit de corps* would suffer if units were not allowed to wear titles or distinguishing marks. By the New Year of 1940 the War Office had conceded these points to Lord Gort and had agreed in principle to (a) the enhancement of officers' badges of rank with cloth in the colour of the arm-of-service; (b) strips of cloth in the same colours to be worn at the top of the sleeves by all ranks; and (c) the wearing of regimental flashes on

Battledress. Thus the first three items of battle insignia gained official approval.

The ending of the 'Phoney War' with the German *blitzkrieg* and the evacuation of the BEF over the beaches at Dunkirk then brought more pressing concerns to the fore, so that it was not until the autumn of 1940 that orders were issued by the War Office detailing the wearing of arm-of-service strips, regimental flashes *and* (in contradiction of their directive five months previously) divisional and other formation signs.

From this point onwards it was possible to tell if an officer or other rank in Battledress was an infantryman, a gunner, a sapper, a tankman, etc. simply by glancing at the arm-of-service strip on his sleeve. These could be worn in a combination of one, two or three strips for infantrymen to indicate whether they were in the senior, intermediate or junior brigade of their division. Divisional signs (or higher formation, independent brigade or brigade group signs) were worn above the arm-of-service strips, and if a regimental flash was worn it was sewn

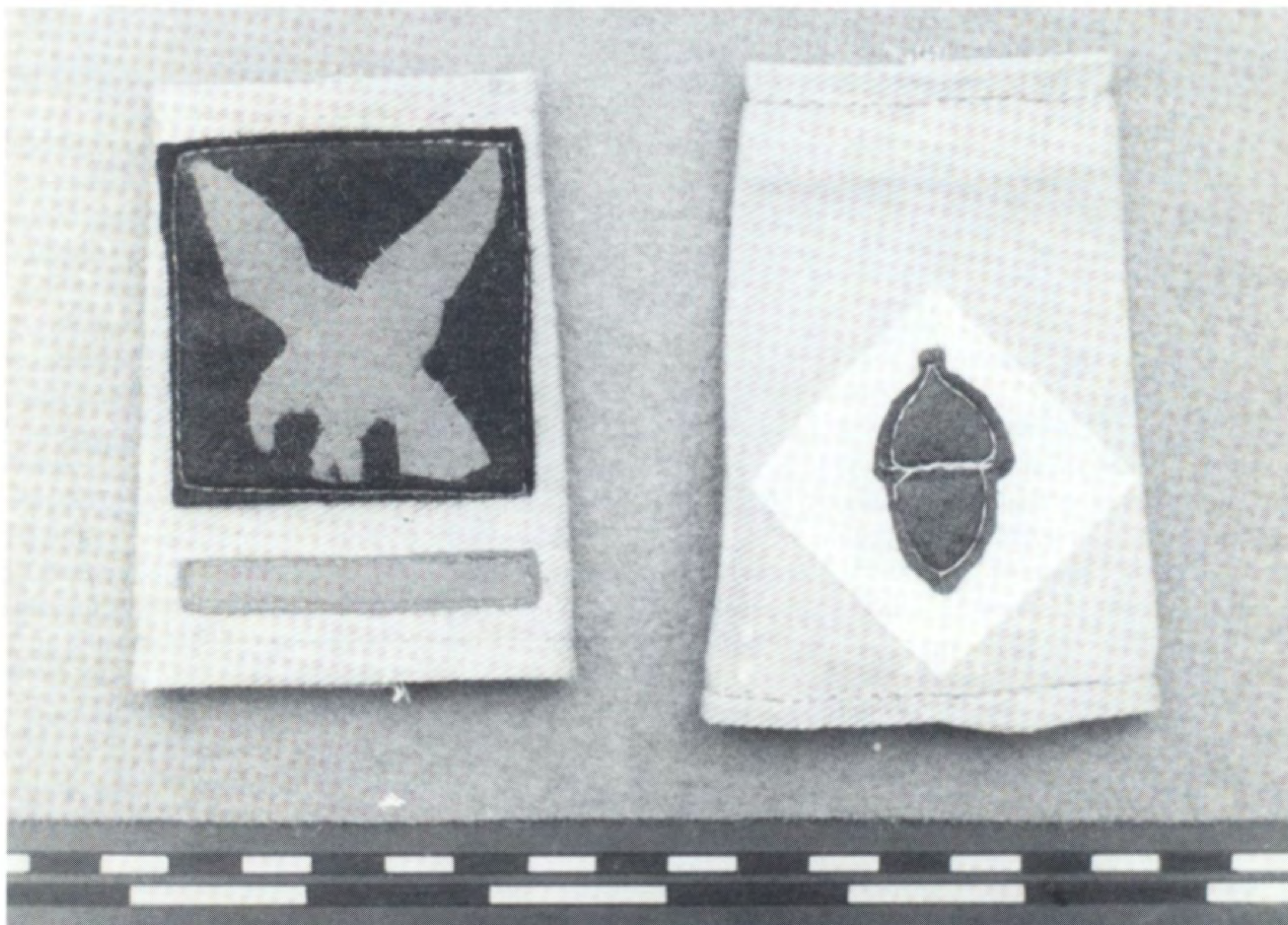
beneath the arm-of-service strips. Thus—with some units wearing strips of coloured cloth on shoulderstraps to indicate companies—it was possible to tell a soldier's division, brigade, unit and even company at a glance. Of course, for those unaware of the symbolism of these insignia they presented a colourful but meaningless picture.

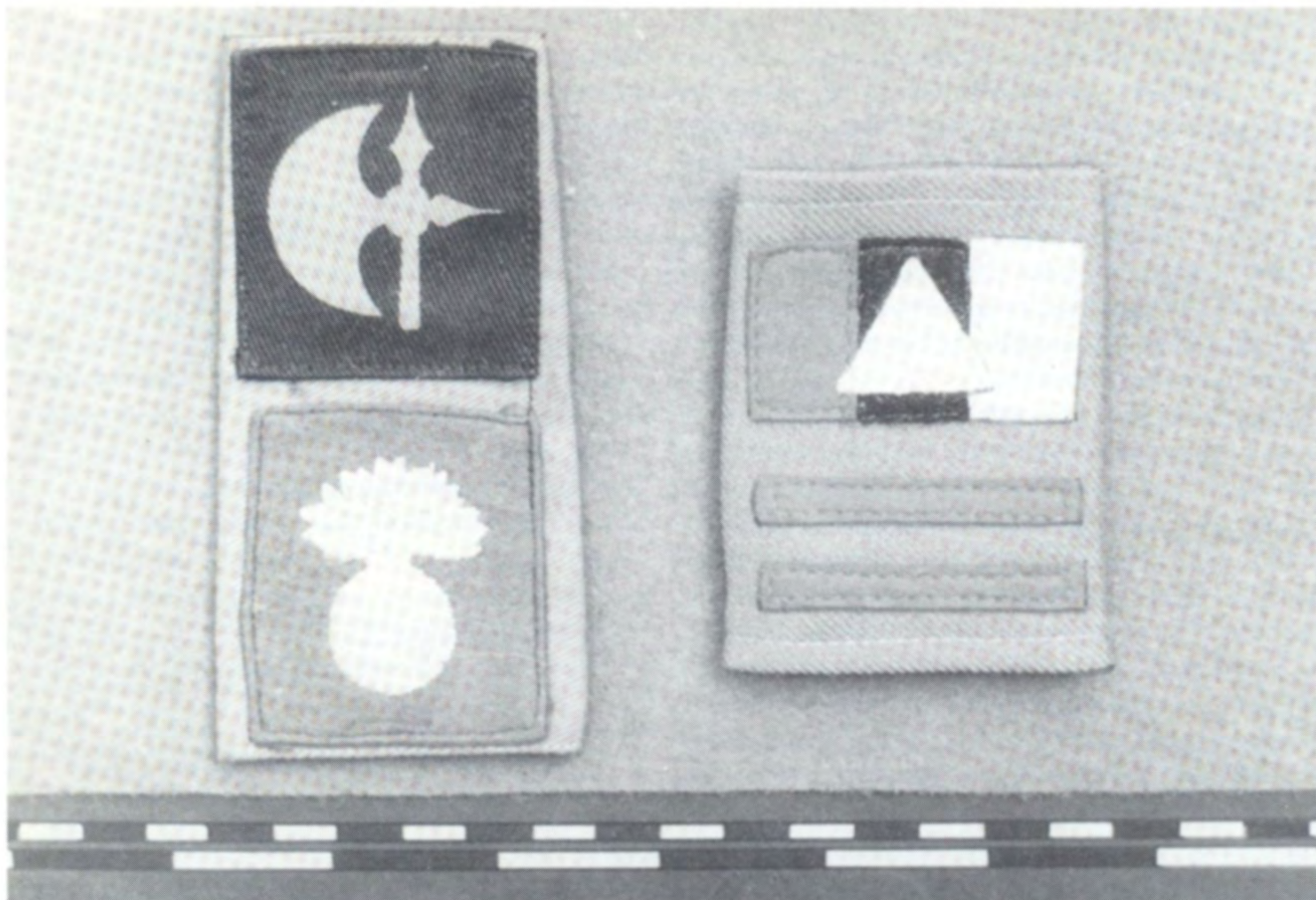
And so, in late 1940, the rules for the wearing of battle insignia throughout the British Army were established. How far they were obeyed and how often they were ignored will become obvious as the story is followed.

Regimental insignia 1939–45

The British Army is proud of its regiments and their

Shoulder slides, 1942/43. These items were used to display battle insignia when in khaki drill tropical dress. At *left* is the slide of the 1st/4th Essex when in the Western Desert with the 4th Indian Div.; the red-on-blue divisional sign is locally made, and a single infantry arm-of-service strip is worn below it. At *right* is a slide bearing the bogus '40th Div.' sign which was worn in Sicily in 1943 in order to deceive Axis intelligence. (The brown acorn on a white diamond is taken from the 1917/18 40th Div. sign.)





Shoulder slides, 1945. At *left* is a slide bearing the battle insignia of the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, 78th Div., as worn in Italy; cf. Plates B, C, and note the white-on-red regimental flash. At *right* is a slide worn by the 2nd North Staffords in the 1st Div. in Palestine. Note the miniature divisional sign on the Staffords' red/black/white regimental flash, and the red arm-of-service/brigade indicator strips of the 2nd Infantry Brigade.

traditions, and it clings to the regimental system even though at times, as in both World Wars, it becomes cumbersome to maintain and throws up occasional anomalies. (Highland battalions full of Englishmen, for example; the Salerno mutiny of personnel of the 50th and 51st Highland Divisions when ordered into other formations; the breaking up of complete divisions to find reinforcements, etc.) But even if the system creaks from time to time, it has worked for 300 years, and the British Army puts great store by fostering traditions as a means to the maintenance of morale.

For this reason regimental insignia were increasingly allowed to be worn on Battledress during the Second World War, even though they had no place in the scheme of battle insignia. The case of shoulder titles illustrates the worst excess. Metal shoulder

titles had officially disappeared with the Service Dress on which they had been worn. Their place, on Battledress, had been taken by worsted drab 'slip-on' titles which could easily be removed when security dictated. The lettering on these slip-on titles was, however, very difficult to make out, being black-on-drab. The regiments of the Brigade of Guards had been permitted to wear on Battledress the cloth shoulder titles they had worn on pre-war Service Dress. These colourful arcs of cloth covered a large area of the sleeve top and displayed the title of the regiment in clear and contrasting legend. The precedent thus being established, other regiments began to have shoulder titles made up in regimental colours at their own expense. Amongst the first regiments to adopt this form of insignia without official sanction were the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the Hampshire Regiment, the Border Regiment and the Durham Light Infantry. Other units, regiments, and corps began to follow the fashion despite War Office orders forbidding the practice. Finally, authority gave in to the inevitable, and, in June 1943, authorised and began to issue cloth

shoulder titles. These were printed on cotton drill material (unlike the embroidered insignia which had preceded them) and were in corps or regimental colours for all but the majority of infantry regiments, who were ordered to wear scarlet titles with white lettering.

Shoulder titles were worn with a variety of other regimental insignia items such as lanyards, cap patches, special distinction badges etc., in combination with battle insignia. The two should not, however, be confused.

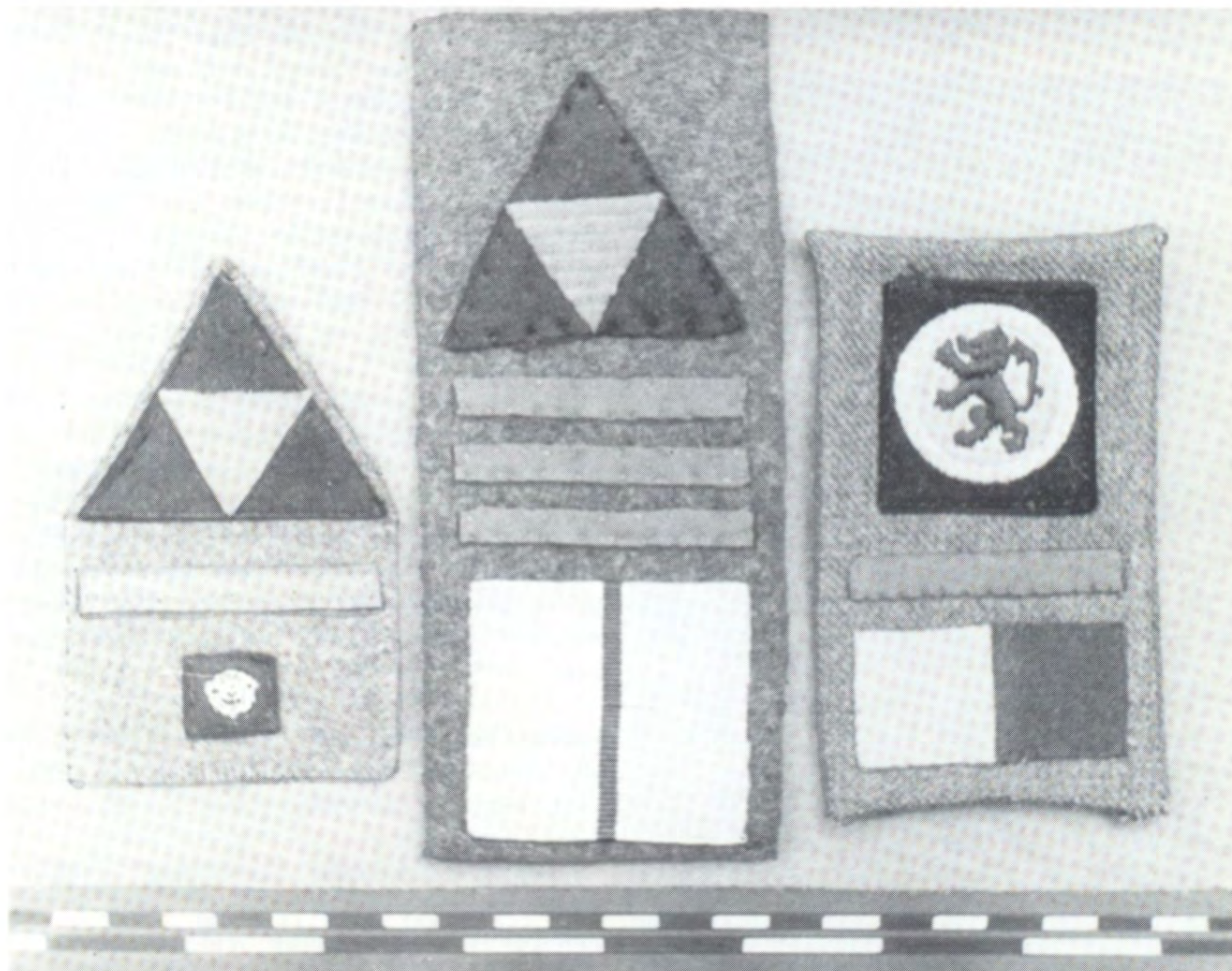
Other insignia on Battledress

The badges of rank worn on Battledress have already been touched upon. Trade, instructors', skill-at-arms and good conduct badges were also worn, and included a number of new badges introduced to cover the skills and qualifications needed to fight an increasingly technological war.

Notable amongst these were a variety of badges for the drivers and mechanics of mechanised transport, bomb disposal badges, qualified parachutists' wings, glider badges worn by troops after participation in an operational glider landing, sniper badges, Army flying badges and radio operators' and mechanics' badges.

Two forms of insignia from the Great War were resurrected in 1944 in the form of wound stripes and service chevrons. Unlike the 1914–18 variety, service chevrons were awarded for service at home

Battle insignia, North-West Europe, 1944/45. At left is the insignia of the 2nd East Yorkshires, indicating the senior brigade of the 3rd Div., with a miniature white metal rose on a black square as a regimental flash; cf. Plate E5. The 1st Royal Norfolks in the junior brigade of the same division (*centre*) used a strip of black-on-yellow regimental ribbon as their flash. At right is the battle insignia of the 1st Middlesex, machine gun battalion to the 15th (Scottish) Div.—red lion on yellow disc, a white rim, black patch. The arm-of-service strip is for infantry and the regimental flash is yellow and maroon.



as well as abroad. They were also all red, instead of a combination of blue and red.

Battle insignia development

In the United Kingdom and in the North-West European campaign battle insignia were fairly well regulated throughout the course of the war, as were other dress matters. In other theatres of operations battle insignia developed in quite different ways.

In North Africa divisional signs, arm-of-service strips and other battle insignia did not appear until brought out to the theatre by formations moving from the UK from 1941 onwards. Even then, the rather casual attitudes to dress prevalent in the 8th Army negated the value of battle insignia until after

The 53rd (Welsh) Div. had their battle insignia printed in red on drab drill patches for wear on Battledress. Below is an example for the intermediate brigade of the division (as indicated by the two arm-of-service strips below the divisional sign, cf. Plate 1). The three vertical bars indicate the third, junior battalion of the brigade, a system peculiar to the 53rd Division.



the victory at El Alamein, when divisional signs began to be displayed upon all forms of uniform by high-morale formations such as the 51st Highland Division and the 50th 'Tyne, Tees and Humber' Division. The 1st Army, landing in North Africa in late 1942, brought their UK battle insignia with them, but many had been removed before embarkation as a security precaution. The British troops who went on to fight in Sicily and Italy from July 1943 nearly always wore their divisional signs on Battledress and khaki drill tropical uniforms, but other insignia were regulated in a casual fashion from formation to formation. Some bizarre combinations emerged.

The wearing of battle insignia in the Far East was complicated by the changes in uniform dictated by fighting conditions. At the time of the Japanese invasion of Malaya and Southern Burma British forces were dressed in khaki drill uniforms (featuring the ludicrous and unsuitable short trousers so beloved by the British) which gave little protection from the ravages of climate and had virtually no camouflage value. By the time the Japanese had been driven out of Burma three years later the British had adopted a drill Battledress in a colour more suited to the war in South-East Asia, 'jungle green'. When out of action a felt bush hat was worn with this uniform, and it was on this hat that the divisional sign—the only battle insignia generally worn in the Far East—was usually displayed.

By the end of the war much of the pride formerly vested in the regiment had been transferred to the division, and this was evident in the way that British troops always chose to wear their divisional sign before any other insignia. As in 1914–18, soldiers saw their division as the real team, and were proud of its achievements. Regimental (in reality, battalion) pride was felt, but to a much lesser extent.

Sources and research

Much more of an effort was made to record British battle insignia of the Second World War than those of the Great War.

Research into the subject is made fairly simple by the governing regulations issued from 1940–43, the books of Howard Cole, the well-illustrated divisional and unit histories which have been published

and—not least—by the millions of surviving items of battle insignia in the hands of collectors. Difficulties arise when photographs of British troops taken from 1939–45 are studied. In some cases the wartime censor has obliterated insignia in order to maintain security; and where insignia can be seen—particularly in Middle East and Far East photographs—they rarely conform to the regulation layout, usually being combined with confusing regimental items. It should be remembered that the wearing of battle insignia varied from division to division and from theatre to theatre. Regimental histories—which are usually well-illustrated—offer by far the best source of reference material, some going so far as to specify the items of insignia worn. Divisional orders of battle can be ascertained from *Orders of Battle* (2 volumes)—*United Kingdom and Colonial Formations and Units in the Second World War 1939–1945*, prepared for the Historical Section of the Cabinet Office by Lt.-Col. H. F. Joslen (HMSO, 1960).

British Divisional Organisation 1939–45

There were many more types of division in the British Army in the Second World War than there had been in the Great War, when the only distinction drawn was between divisions consisting of infantry and those consisting of cavalry. Britain went to war in 1939 with Infantry Divisions, and even one Cavalry Division, but to these were added Armoured Divisions, County Divisions at the time of the German invasion threat, and Airborne Divisions later in the war. Establishment of these Divisions constantly changed as the perfect balance for battle was sought. Under divisional command came Armoured Brigades, Cavalry Brigades, Infantry Brigades, Tank Brigades, Motor Machine Gun Brigades, Support Groups, Motor Brigades, Independent Infantry Brigades, Independent Brigade Groups and Armoured Brigade Groups.

The Armoured Division started out in 1939 organised into an HQ; a Light Armoured Brigade; a Heavy Armoured Brigade; a Support Group of artillery, motorised infantry and sappers; plus the usual logistical back-up. In 1940 the organisation changed to replace the Heavy and Light Armoured Brigades with two Armoured Brigades. In 1942 these were reduced to one Armoured Brigade (which included a motor battalion) backed up with

an Infantry Brigade, an armoured car regiment, artillery, sappers and logistical tail. Finally, in 1944/45, this establishment was 'fine-tuned' by improving its supporting firepower. Over the war years the manpower of the Armoured Division rose from 9,442 to 14,964; its tanks from 351 to 366; its field guns from 40 to 48.

By comparison, Infantry Divisional organisation remained fairly stable with an HQ and three Infantry Brigades, each of three battalions. Throughout the changes of establishment from 1939 to 1941 and 1944/45 the Infantry Division was supported by three field regiments RA, an anti-tank regiment RA, three field companies RE, and the usual logistical back-up. Establishment increments included a reconnaissance regiment, a light anti-aircraft regiment RA, a machine gun battalion and

Many units wore 'unofficial' strips of coloured ribbon on shoulder straps to indicate companies. Shown here is the system used by the 2nd/4th Hampshires, who wore a central coloured stripe on a black ribbon, the central stripe varying in colour from company to company—see under Plate C2.



a bridging platoon. Strengths rose from 13,863 all ranks in 1939 to 18,347 in 1945; guns from 147 to 182; vehicles from 2,993 to 4,330; LMGs from 644 to 1,262.

Oddities not mentioned included the Motor Division of 1939/40 (basically six motorised infantry battalions) and the Mixed Division of 1942 (in reality an Infantry Division with one of its brigades replaced by a Tank Brigade).

British Army Divisions *1939-45*

Guards Armoured Division

Formed in the United Kingdom in 1941, the division landed in France in June 1944 and went on to fight in the battles of Bourguebus Ridge, Mont Pincon, The Nederrijn and The Rhineland¹. Its brigades were composed entirely of battalions of Foot Guards, armoured, motorised and in the infantry rôle. As its divisional sign the Guards Armoured Div. chose a modification of the badge used by the Guards Division of 1915-18, the ever-open eye. No other battle insignia were worn on uniform apart from regimental distinctions.

Like their Great War predecessors the Guards Armoured Div. established a reputation as a *corps d'élite* once committed to battle. Commanded by Maj.-Gen. A. H. S. Adair, the division included 1st (Motor) and 2nd (Armoured) Grenadier Gds.; 1st (Armoured) and 5th Coldstream Gds.; 2nd Scots Guards; 2nd (Armoured) and 3rd Irish Gds.; and 1st and 2nd Welsh Guards.

1st Armoured Division

Already in existence as the UK 'Mobile' Division at the outbreak of war, this division joined the BEF in France in May 1940 just prior to the Dunkirk débâcle. Back in England it was re-equipped, and sent in late 1941 to the Middle East, where it participated in the battles of Gazala, Mersa Matruh, Defence of the Alamein Line, El Alamein, Tebaga Gap, Wadi Akarit, El Kourzia and Tunis. Shipped to Italy in 1944, it fought in the battle of

Coriano before being disbanded. The division's sign was a charging rhino, worn on uniform with the standard arm-of-service strips, etc. The division turned over an incredible number of units during its active service: long-serving amongst them were The Bays; 10th Hussars; 9th Lancers; 1st King's Royal Rifle Corps; 1st and 2nd Rifle Brigade; and 12th Lancers.

2nd Armoured Division

This Division began forming in the United Kingdom in December 1939. Barely 18 months later it was disbanded after the capture of its General Officer Commanding and much of his headquarters, Armoured Brigade and Support Group at Mechili, Libya (a great prize for Rommel in his first desert venture). During its short existence the 2nd Armoured Div. chose a plumed knight's helmet as its sign, certainly painted on vehicles and tanks, but probably never worn on uniform, as the division left the UK for the Middle East before the authorisation of battle insignia. Units serving with the division included 5th and 6th Royal Tanks; King's Dragoon Guards; 3rd Hussars; and the Tower Hamlet Rifles.

(3rd, 4th and 5th Armoured Divisions were not formed.)

6th Armoured Division

This division chose the mailed fist as its sign, taken from the badge of the newly-formed Royal Armoured Corps. This was worn in the United Kingdom where the division formed in 1940, and in North Africa, Italy and Austria where the division ended its war. Amongst its many commanders was the then-Maj.-Gen. G. W. R. Templer, wounded in command in August 1944. The division's battles included Bou Arada, Fondouk, El Kourzia, Tunis, Liri Valley, Arezzo, Advance to Florence, Gothic Line and Argenta Gap. Long-serving units were the Derbyshire Yeomanry; 16/5th and 17/21st Lancers; Lothian Horse; and battalions of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade.

7th Armoured Division

Nicknamed 'the Desert Rats' after the jerboa chosen as their divisional sign, this division was in existence in Egypt at the outbreak of war, being

¹Major engagements are quoted throughout in the form used for the official battle honours.



known at that date as The Armoured Division (Egypt). Redesignated the 7th Armoured Div. in February 1940, the division went on to fight in the battles of Sidi Barrani, Bardia, Capture of Tobruk, Beda Fomm, Tobruk, Gazala, Defence of Alamein Line, Alam el Halfa, El Alamein, Medenine, Mareth, Akarit, Enfidaville and Tunis before the defeat of the Axis forces in North Africa. In September 1943 the 7th were again in action in Italy, participating in the battles of Salerno, Capture of Naples and Volturno Crossing. Shipped back to the United Kingdom to participate in the Second Front, the 7th Armoured went on to fight in the battles of Bourguebus Ridge and The Nederrijn in 1944 and at The Rhine in 1945. Five years of solid battling earned the 'Desert Rats' a reputation second to none among British formations of 1939–45. Units with the division on its long haul to Berlin included the 7th, 8th and 11th Hussars, battalions of the Royal Tank Regiment, battalions of the KRRC and the Rifle Brigade, the Sharpshooters, 5th Dragoon Guards, battalions of the Queen's, 2nd Devons and 9th DLI.

Whether by coincidence or design the first sign adopted by the division was similar to that of the Great War 7th Division, a white circle on a red—instead of black—square. Later a red jerboa was

Armoured divisional signs. Both in black and white. Left, 1st Armd.Div.; right, 9th.

painted on the white disc. The divisional sign chosen for wear on uniform in 1944 differed considerably from the earlier vehicle sign, and it is doubtful if a divisional sign was generally worn on uniform prior to 1944; photographs exist of the GOC wearing a sign in 1943, but few other photographs show personnel of the division wearing the jerboa.

8th Armoured Division

This division began to form in the United Kingdom in November 1940, choosing the green traffic light with the legend 'GO' as its divisional sign. This was worn on uniform on a square black background, but was painted on tanks and vehicles surrounded by a white circle (not the only example of signs being rendered differently in this way). The 8th Armoured Div. began to ship out to Egypt in May 1942, arriving in the July of that year with an organisation of two Armoured Brigades and a Support Group. It was immediately ordered to reorganise as a one Armoured Brigade/one Infantry Brigade establishment. Its 23rd Armoured Bde. was thrown into the battle for the defence of the

Alamein Line having been reorganised as an Independent Armoured Brigade Group; and its 24th Armoured Bde. was redesignated an Armoured Brigade Group and was subsequently disbanded after the battle of El Alamein. The division's Support Group was disbanded after arrival in Egypt. On 1 January 1943 what was left of the division was disbanded, but before this melancholy event the tanks of the division had proudly borne the 'GO' divisional sign into battle. The sole surviving formation of the division—the 23rd Independent Armoured Brigade Group—chose as a new sign the 'Liver bird', and, having fought in the battles of Defence of Alamein Line, Alam el Halfa and El Alamein, went on to fight at Medenine, Mareth, Akarit, Enfidaville, Tunis, Landing in Sicily, Adrano, Salerno, Capture of Naples, Volturno Crossing, Monte Camino and Garigliano Crossing.

9th Armoured Division

This division was formed in the United Kingdom in December 1940 and was disbanded in July 1944. It did not serve overseas.

Armoured brigade signs. *Left to right, the 4th (black on white), 8th (brown and black on golden yellow), and 27th (gold and white on blue). Independent Brigades, both armoured and infantry, usually wore their brigade signs alone, but examples have been noted of these being worn in addition to divisional signs (e.g. some tank brigades, cf. Plate D8; 38th and 56th Infantry Bdes., etc.)*

10th Armoured Division

This division was formed in Palestine in August 1941 by the redesignation and reorganisation of the 1st Cavalry Division. After training, the 10th Armoured moved to Egypt and fought in the battles of Alam el Halfa and El Alamein. The division then moved to Palestine, Syria, and back to Egypt before being disbanded in June 1944. Units serving with the division included 2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry, the Nottinghamshire Yeomanry, the Staffordshire Yeomanry, 3rd Royal Tanks, 1st and 4th Buffs and 2nd, 4th and 5th Royal Sussex. The 10th Armoured Division chose a fox's mask as its sign, a device carried—in slightly different form—by the division's 8th Armoured Bde. after they became independent in November 1942.

11th Armoured Division

The 11th Armoured Division began forming in the United Kingdom in March 1941 under the legendary 'Hobo', Maj.-Gen. P. C. S. Hobart, later to command the 79th Armoured Division. After several changes of establishment the division settled to one which included the 29th Armoured Bde. (23rd Hussars, 2nd Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, 3rd Royal Tanks and 8th Rifle Brigade) and the 159th Infantry Bde. (4th KSLI, 3rd Monmouths, 1st Herefords) before embarking for Normandy on 11 June 1944. There it took part in the battles of The





Odon, Bourgeubus Ridge and Mont Pincon before moving on to the battles of Nederrijn and The Rhineland. The divisional sign, a charging bull, was in all probability chosen by Gen. Hobart, who chose a bull's head as the divisional sign for the 79th Division when it was raised in 1942.

42nd Armoured Division

The 42nd was formed in the United Kingdom in November 1941 by the conversion of the 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division. The division was disbanded in October 1943, never having served overseas. Its Infantry Brigade was posted to the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Div. and its Armoured Brigade to the 79th Armoured Division. When it was converted from an infantry to an armoured division the 42nd kept its small, red-and-white diamond divisional sign.

79th Armoured Division

Formed in August 1942, the 79th Armoured Div. started life as yet another armoured formation. In April 1943 it was ordered to take over the development of all specialised armour—the 'Funnies'—and it was in this rôle that it played such a spectacular part from 'D'-Day until the end of the war in Europe. Commanding the division for the whole of its existence was Maj.-Gen. Sir P. C. S.

In the first year of the war both Service Dress and Battledress were worn. Here three junior NCOs of the Royal Engineers, photographed in 1939, show Service Dress with correct insignia, and Battledress devoid of all insignia except metal titles. All wear Field Service caps.

Hobart, who chose a bull's head for his divisional sign (a *bull passant* is said to have featured in Sir Percy's family crest). Long-serving units with the division were 22nd Dragoons, Westminster Dragoons, 1st Lothians, and 5th, 6th and 42nd Assault Regiments, RE Detachments from the division fought in the Normandy landings, the Walcheren operation, the Rhine crossing and many other operations, but, for some strange reason, few qualified for official battle honours.

1st Cavalry Division

Formed in the United Kingdom two months after the outbreak of war, the 1st Cavalry Div. consisted of a composite Household Cavalry Regiment, the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, the North Somerset Yeomanry, the Yorkshire Dragoons, the Yorkshire Hussars, the Nottinghamshire Yeomanry, the Cheshire Yeomanry, the Staffordshire Yeomanry and the Warwickshire Yeomanry. Shipped to Palestine in January 1940, elements of the division operated in Syria and Iraq. In August 1941 divisional HQ, 4th and 6th Cavalry Bdes. began to reorganise as the 9th and 8th Armoured Bdes. of the

10th Armoured Div., while the 5th Cavalry Bde. carried on its duties as a mounted formation in Syria and Palestine until June 1942, when its HQ was redesignated HQ 8th Div. (Syria). During its existence the 1st Cavalry Div. may have used the fox's mask sign subsequently used by the 8th Armoured Bde., or the white horse sign eventually used by 9th Armoured Bde.; no divisional sign appears to have been worn on uniform by the division in 1939–41.

1st Infantry Division

A pre-war Regular Division, the 1st mobilised for war at its peacetime station—Aldershot—and moved to France with the British Expeditionary Force on 19 September 1939. There, transport of

the division was photographed displaying the white triangle chosen as a divisional sign. (This has been described as the tip of the 1 Corps spearhead by some sources, but its similarity to the white pennant used by the 1st Div. in 1914–18 is too obvious to ignore.) After Dunkirk the division remained in the UK, reorganised as a Mixed Division from June to November of 1942. In early 1943 the 1st sailed for North Africa as part of the 1st Army, fighting in the battles of Medjez Plain and Tunis. After carrying out the occupation of the Island of Pantellaria the 1st Div. moved on to Italy, fighting at Anzio, Rome

Eighth Army, North Africa, 1942: Lt.Gen. Norrie chatting to soldiers who had just been released from Axis captivity. This Warrant Officer wears the divisional sign of the 1st Armd.Div. with red and yellow Royal Armoured Corps arm-of-service strip below. (Imperial War Museum)



and the Gothic Line. The 1st Infantry was one of those divisions who cocked a snoot at authority when it came to the wearing of insignia. All manner of combinations can be seen in photographs of the division's troops, either in Battledress or in khaki drill tropical uniforms. The divisional sign has been seen in many sizes displayed on sleeves or epaulette slides and stitched on to regimental flashes and diamond-shaped Corps flashes. Long-serving units with the 1st Div. included 1st Loyals, 2nd North Staffords, 6th Gordons, 1st Duke of Wellington's, 2nd Foresters, 1st KSLI and 2nd/7th Middlesex (MG).

2nd Infantry Division

The famous crossed keys divisional sign of the 2nd Infantry Div. was chosen by Maj.-Gen. H. C. Lloyd, the first GOC. The story goes that Gen. Lloyd chose the crossed keys because the sign of a brigade he had previously commanded had been a single key. Photographs taken of trucks of the division while with the BEF in winter 1939/40 show the divisional sign painted on the nearside mudguards. After fighting in the battle of St Omer/La Bassée the division was evacuated to the United Kingdom, from whence it sailed for India in April 1942. From there the 2nd Div. marched into Burma to fight in the battles of Kohima and Mandalay. After the Japanese surrender the division's 5th Infantry Bde. took the crossed keys to Japan, where they formed part of the occupation forces. Veteran units of the division were 1st Royal Scots, 2nd Royal Norfolk, 1st/8th Lancashire Fusiliers, 2nd Dorset, 1st Camerons, 7th Worcesters, 1st Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1st Royal Berkshires, 2nd DLI and 2nd Manchester (MG).

3rd Infantry Division

Yet another pre-war Regular Division, the 3rd went to France with the BEF on 29 September 1939; its GOC was a certain Maj.-Gen. B. L. Montgomery. It was Monty who 'with the help of his AQ' devised the divisional sign of three black triangles on a circular field of divisional red. The stated purpose was to indicate a combination of threes—3rd Division; three brigades; three battalions in each brigade. (When the divisional sign was authorised for wear on Battledress in 1941 it was made up as a triangle of black cloth with a



Eighth Army, North Africa, 1942: a private of a Seaforth Highlanders battalion, 51st (Highland) Div., shows off his divisional sign and regimental flash. The censor has erased his regimental cap badge, whilst leaving the divisional battle insignia for all to see. (IWM)

smaller, red, inverted, triangle superimposed.) In Flanders the 3rd Div. were engaged in the battle of Ypres/Comines Canal before the Dunkirk evacuation, after which they stayed in the UK for four years, reorganised as a Mixed Division in 1942/43, and reverting to the rôle of an Infantry Division for 'D'-Day, when they went back to Europe to fight in the battles of Normandy Landing, Caen, Bourguebus Ridge, Mont Pincon, The Nederrijn, The Rhineland and The Rhine. Standards of discipline in dress and the wearing of insignia were very high in the 3rd Div., where regulations were strictly enforced. Even so, the 2nd East Yorks and the Divisional Engineers wore regimental flashes which



Eighth Army, North Africa, 1942: a Royal Tank Regiment major studies a map during an aircraft journey. Note the divisional sign of the 8th Armd.Div., the Royal Armoured Corps arm-of-service strip, and the RTR tank right arm badge. (IWM)

contravened the rules forbidding metal devices and numbers to be worn on these items. Infantry units with the division in North-West Europe included 1st Suffolks, 2nd East Yorks, 1st South Lancs, 2nd Lincolns, 1st KOSB, 2nd RUR, 2nd Royal Warwicks, 1st Royal Norfolk, 2nd KSLI and 2nd Middlesex (MG).

4th Infantry Division

The 4th were also a pre-war Regular formation, and moved to France with the BEF in October 1939. There they adopted a red divisional sign in the shape of a quadrant (the first quadrant—12 o'clock to 3 o'clock). After Dunkirk and the

subsequent establishment of the division in the United Kingdom, this device was worn on uniform with arm-of-service strips and regimental flashes. In June 1942 the division was reorganised as a Mixed Division, moving to North Africa with the 1st Army to fight as such in early 1943. It fought in the battles of Oued Zarga, Medjez Plain and Tunis before reorganising as an infantry division in December 1943. The 4th Div. next saw action in Italy in the battles of Cassino II, Trasimene Line, Arezzo, Advance to Florence and Rimini Line, before moving to Greece in late 1944 to help quell the civil unrest there. It was in Italy that the divisional sign changed from a quadrant to a red circle with a quadrant set out—the whole on a square, white background. Examples have been noted of vehicle signs with the first quadrant set out, and others with the fourth quadrant (9 o'clock to 12 o'clock) set out. At this time the divisional newspaper was called 'The Quadrant', while the divisional club rejoiced in the title of 'The Dutch Cheese'. Veteran units of the 4th included 2nd Bedford and Hertfordshires, 2nd DCLI, 1st/6th East Surreys, 2nd Royal Fusiliers, 6th Black Watch, 1st Royal West Kent, 2nd Somerset LI, 2nd King's and 2nd/4th Hampshires.

5th Infantry Division

The 5th, a pre-war Regular Division, went to France with the BEF, participating in the battle of Ypres/Comines Canal before the Dunkirk evacuation. From the United Kingdom in March 1942 the division began an extraordinary odyssey that took in Madagascar, India, Iraq, Persia, Syria, Egypt, Sicily, Italy, Egypt and Palestine, and finally North-West Europe. During their travels the division participated in the battles of Landing in Sicily, The Sangro, Garigliano Crossing, Anzio and Rome. The 5th chose the letter 'Y' as their divisional sign, symbolic of the county of Yorkshire—the division's base in 1939. The letter was usually stencilled or stitched to squares of khaki drill cloth, along with a wide variety of regulation and non-regulation insignia, to provide a distinctive method of wearing battle insignia. Long-serving units of the division were 2nd Cameronians, 2nd Wiltshire, 1st Green Howards, 1st KOYLI, 1st York and Lancs, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Northants, 6th Seaforth and 7th Cheshire (MG).



6th (70th) Infantry Division

A 6th Infantry Div. had existed in Egypt for a few months in 1939/40, but the true division did not begin to form there until February 1941. After operating in the Western Desert the 6th moved to Syria, where it fought at the battle of Damascus. The division was then redesignated the 70th Infantry Division in October 1941, before moving to Tobruk and relieving the Australian garrison there. In the next few months of fighting the division participated in the battles of Defence of Tobruk, after which it was withdrawn to Egypt and Syria before being shipped to India to counter the Japanese invasion threat in February/March 1942. There, in September 1943, the 70th Div. commenced reorganising for the rôle of Long Range Penetration, handing over its formations and units to Special Force (the official title of Brig. Orde Wingate's 'Chindits') and disbanding divisional HQ in November 1943. The red four-pointed star chosen as a divisional sign for the 6th (and 70th) was painted on vehicles, etc., but was probably never worn on uniform. Infantry with the division at the

First Army, North Africa, 1943: a private of the 6th Gordon Highlanders searches a German prisoner-of-war, Crich-el-Oued, April 1943. Note the long strip of Gordon tartan used instead of a regimental title, just visible at the top of the sleeve with, below it, a patch of drab drill cloth with the white triangle divisional sign of the 1st Inf.Div. and the two red arm-of-service strips of the 2nd Infantry Brigade. (IWM)

time of the handover to Special Force included 1st Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire (16 and 61 Columns), 7th Leicesters (47 and 74 Columns), 2nd Black Watch (42 and 73 Columns), 2nd York and Lincs (65 and 84 Columns), 2nd Queen's (21 and 22 Columns), 2nd Leicesters (17 and 71 Columns), 2nd Duke of Wellington's (33 and 76 Columns), 1st Essex (44 and 56 Columns) and 4th Border (34 and 55 Columns).

7th Infantry Division

A Regular Division in Palestine before the outbreak of war, the 7th moved to Egypt in August 1939 and was redesignated 6th Infantry Div. in November 1939. The 7th probably had no divisional sign during its short existence. From June 1941 to June 1943 the title 7th Division (Cyprus) was used by the

HQ and garrison troops in Cyprus for deception purposes; it is not known if a bogus divisional sign was used in this case. Such signs were extensively used in the Middle East for deception, and were picked up by Axis Intelligence.

8th Infantry Division

Another pre-war Regular Division in Palestine, the 8th stayed there until divisional HQ disbanded in February 1940. The divisional sign is given as a red

First Army, North Africa, April 1943: at the divisional HQ of the 46th Div. the General Officer Commanding, Maj.Gen. Freeman-Attwood (right), talks to two of his brigadiers, Harding (left) and James (centre). Note the larger, embroidered divisional sign worn by the GOC, and the two red brigade indicator strips on Brig. Harding's sleeve. (IWM)

'crusader's' cross on a blue shield. In June 1942 HQ 8th Division (Syria) was formed in Syria to command troops there in an internal security and administration rôle. The HQ was disbanded in October 1943. It is not known if the earlier divisional sign was used by the later formation.

9th (Highland) Infantry Division

Just prior to the outbreak of war most Territorial Divisions had been ordered to form 'duplicates' in the manner of the Great War second-line divisions. The 9th was the duplicate of the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division. In August 1940 the 9th was redesignated the 51st (Highland) Division after the capitulation of most of the original 51st in France.



In its short existence the 9th had used the divisional sign of the Great War 9th (Scottish) Div., a silver thistle on a blue ground.

(No **10th** or **11th Divisions** were ever formed.)

12th (Eastern) Infantry Division

The duplicate division of the 44th (Home Counties)

First Army, North Africa, 1943: a detachment of the 64th Anti-Tank Regt., RA operate the first model 17-pdr. anti-tank gun (mounted on a 25-pdr. carriage). The divisional anti-tank regiment of the 78th Div., the 64th had originally been Glasgow Yeomanry. The sergeant in the foreground wears the battleaxe sign of the 78th Div., red and blue Royal Artillery arm-of-service strip, and a diamond-shaped regimental flash halved grey and black with the yellow letters 'GY' superimposed. (IWM)

Infantry Division. In April 1940 the divisional HQ and the three infantry brigades went to France for training and labour duties with the BEF. After the Dunkirk evacuation the division was disbanded in July 1940. Like all BEF Divisions the 12th did not use its Great War divisional sign (the ace of spades), but chose a plain white diamond to paint on its vehicles.

In July 1942 the title 12th Div. was given to a Sudan Defence Force brigade for deception and other reasons. This bogus 12th Div. operated in Egypt, on 8th Army lines of communications and in Tripolitania Base Area until January 1945. In that time it may have used either the ace of spades or the white diamond as its 'false colours' divisional sign.



(No **13th** or **14th Divisions** were ever formed.)

15th (Scottish) Infantry Division

The duplicate division of the 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division. The 15th remained in the United Kingdom until the Second Front, being placed on 'lower establishment' in 1941, reorganised as a Mixed Division in March 1943, and becoming an

Pantellaria, June 1943: prior to the invasion of Sicily the British 1st Inf.Div. seized the island of Pantellaria as part of a combined operation to neutralise the Italian naval base there. Here men of the 1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry, 3rd Inf.Bde., guard Italian prisoners-of-war and civilian detainees. Regimental titles, divisional signs and arm-of-service/brigade indicator strips were now worn on khaki drill uniforms by units of the 1st Div., and the printed battle insignia 'patches' previously worn had by now been discarded. (IWM)



Infantry Division once more six months later. The division, like the 9th, adopted the divisional sign of the Great War 15th (Scottish) Div., an 'O'—the 15th letter of the alphabet—but without the red 'scotch' in its centre. History records that HM King George VI, seeing the sign on an inspection, gave permission for the arms of Scotland to be displayed in the centre of the sign. The 15th Scottish landed in the Normandy bridgehead on 14 June 1944 and went on to fight in the battles of The Odon, Caen, Mont Pincon, The Nederrijn, The Rhineland and The Rhine. Standards of discipline regarding dress were high in this division, with all battle insignia—and Scottish regimental insignia—being worn 'by the book'. Infantry with the 15th Scottish in North-West Europe included 8th Royal Scots, 6th KOSB, 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Glasgow Highlanders, 7th Seaforth, 9th Cameronians, 10th HLI, 2nd Argylls, 2nd Gordons and 1st Middlesex (MG).

(No **16th** or **17th Divisions** were ever formed.)

18th Infantry Division

The 18th was the duplicate of the 54th (East Anglian) Infantry Division. After training in the United Kingdom the 18th was shipped out to India in October 1941: elements of the division began landing there on 27 December, but were re-embarked by 18 January 1942 and sent to reinforce Gen. Percival's army battling the Japanese in Malaya and Singapore. (One brigade, the 53rd, never even docked in India, but disembarked in Singapore on 13 January and went straight into action in Johore.) By 29 January 1942 the 18th Infantry Div. had landed in Singapore, but on 15 February Gen. Percival surrendered his forces to the Japanese. The 18th thus claim only one battle honour—Singapore Island; but considering the suffering of the men of the 18th in Japanese POW camps, it was a hard-won distinction. Infantry with the division in February 1942 included 4th, 5th and 6th Royal Norfolk, 1st and 2nd Cambridgeshire, 4th and 5th Suffolk, 5th Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and 1st/5th Foresters. The divisional sign of the 18th was the map-reading conventional sign for a windmill—an apt device for an East Anglian formation. It was worn on uniform in the UK, but not on tropical uniform in the division's first and last battle.

(No divisions numbered from **19** to **22** were ever formed.)

23rd (Northumbrian) Division

The 23rd was the duplicate of the 50th (Northumbrian) Motor Division. In April 1940 the HQ and the two infantry brigades went to France to join the BEF for training and labour duties. After the Dunkirk evacuation the division was disbanded in June 1940, the brigades moving on to other formations. With the 23rd in 1940 were 5th East Yorks, 6th and 7th Green Howards, 10th and 11th DLI and 1st Tyneside Scottish. The divisional sign bore no relationship to that of the Great War 23rd Div., but consisted of a white rose to represent the Yorkshire regiments on a green (light infantry) background. Examples of this sign made up for wear on uniform (with the rose stencilled on a felt patch) are in collections, and indicate that the 23rd were probably one of those BEF formations wearing 'illegal' battle insignia in 1940.

(No divisions numbered from **24** to **35** were ever formed.)

36th Infantry Division

This division was formed in Burma by the redesignation of the 36th Indian Infantry Div. in September 1944. It then went on to fight in the battles of Mandalay and Rangoon Road before the Japanese surrender. Infantry units with the 36th at this time were 2nd Buffs, 1st Devon, 1st Northants, 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, 2nd East Lancs, 6th South Wales Borderers, 10th Glosters, 9th Royal Sussex and 'D' Coy. 2nd Manchester (MG).

(No **37th Division** was ever formed.)

38th (Welsh) Infantry Division

The duplicate of the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division, the 38th Welsh Div. never went overseas from the UK.

(No **39th Division** was ever formed.)

40th Infantry Division

On 9 November 1943 the 43rd Infantry Bde. (which had just arrived in Sicily for internal security



The invasion of Sicily, 1943: Brig. Roy Urquhart (later to achieve fame as commander of the 1st Airborne Div. at Arnhem) commanded the 231st (Malta) Inf.Bde. in the fighting for the island. The brigade was composed of battalions who had garrisoned Malta during its historic siege and were now being given the chance to hit back at the Germans and Italians. The brigade sign of a white Maltese cross on a red shield was worn on flannel shirtsleeves, on the right arm only; cf. Plate D5. (IWM)

duties on lines of communications) was designated 40th Infantry Div. for deception purposes. Brig. Whitfield was given the local rank of major-general to further the deception; the units of the former brigade (30 Somerset LI, 30 Royal Norfolk and 30 Dorset) were given brigade designations; and every effort was made to appear to be a division. This included the adoption of a divisional sign featuring the diamond and acorn of the Great War 40th Div.; these were made up locally and worn on uniform by the personnel of the 'division'—in reality, three battalions of low medical category men armed with personal weapons only and with a skeleton compliment of transport. The deception was played out until June 1944, when the formation was disbanded.

(No **41st Division** was ever formed.)

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division

A first-line Territorial formation at the outbreak of war, the 42nd went to France with the BEF in April 1940. After Dunkirk it re-formed in the United Kingdom and was redesignated 42nd Armoured Div. in November 1941. Like other BEF divisions the 42nd was ordered to choose a new divisional sign on proceeding to France, that chosen was remarkably similar to the sign borne by the 42nd in the Great War.

43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division

Another first-line Territorial formation in September 1939, the 43rd did not go to France with the BEF and did not suffer the fate of those Divisions, Regular and Territorial, who fought their way to the evacuation beaches at Dunkirk but left their heavy weapons and equipment there. The 43rd was in the first line of defence after Dunkirk, being reorganised as a Mixed Division from June 1942 to September 1943. On 24 June 1944 the 43rd Wessex Div. came ashore in the Normandy bridgehead, and went on to fight in the battles of The Odon, Caen, Bourguebus Ridge, Mont Pincon, The Nederrijn, The Rhineland and The Rhine. Veteran infantry units with the division included 4th Somerset LI, 4th and 5th Wiltshires, 7th Hampshires, 4th and 5th Dorset, 5th DCLI, 7th Somerset LI, 1st Worcesters and 8th Middlesex (MG). Great attention was paid to the wearing of insignia in 43rd Wessex Division. The device chosen for a divisional sign was the wyvern, an ancient heraldic symbol relating to the kings of Wessex. In the first series of divisional signs made up for wear on uniform the wyverns are stencilled on blue felt in yellow paint with claws and tongues picked out in a variety of contrasting colours: the significance of this has yet to emerge.

44th (Home Counties) Infantry Division

A first-line Territorial Division at the outbreak of war, the 44th was broken up as a division in January 1943 after the Alamein fighting, with two of its brigades being disbanded and the other becoming a lorried infantry formation. The 44th had gone to France with the BEF in April 1940 and had taken part in the battle of St Omer/La Bassée. After the Dunkirk evacuation the division had been sent to Egypt in May 1942, taking part in the battles

of Alam el Halfa and El Alamein later that year. Infantry units with the 44th included 1st/5th, 1st/6th and 1st/7th Queen's, 4th and 5th Royal West Kents, 2nd and 4th Buffs, 2nd, 4th and 5th Royal Sussex and 6th Cheshire (MG). The divisional sign of the 44th is said to represent the Oval cricket ground, near the drill hall of one of the division's units.

45th Infantry Division

The duplicate division of the 43rd Wessex, the 45th did not serve outside the United Kingdom during the war.

46th Infantry Division

The 46th Div. was raised in October 1939 as a duplicate of the 49th (West Riding) Div.; some historians have described it as the 'North Midland and West Riding' Div., after the old 46th Div.—disbanded in 1936. The division went to France to join the BEF in April 1940, fighting in the battle of St Omer/La Bassée before the Dunkirk evacuation. Early in 1943 the 46th landed in Tunisia as part of the 1st Army, fighting at the battles of El Kouriza and Tunis before moving on to Italy to fight at Salerno, the Capture of Naples, Volturno Crossing, Monte Camino, Gothic Line, Coriano, Rimini Line and the Lamone Crossing. In early 1945 the division was sent to Greece to help put down the civil unrest there, but in April was back in Italy for the final Allied offensive. The divisional sign of the 46th is described as a 'Sherwood Forest oak'. Veteran units of the division's hard fighting in North Africa and Italy included the 2nd, 1st/4th and 5th Hampshires, 6th Lincolns, 2nd/4th KOYLI, 6th York and Lancs, 2nd/5th Leicesters, 5th Foresters, 16th DLI and 9th Manchesters (MG).

47th (London) Infantry Division

Formed in 1939 as the duplicate of the 1st London Div., the 47th was known until November 1940 as the 2nd London Division. (Both London divisions were, at this time, Motor Divisions.) The 47th never served overseas. In choosing a divisional sign, that borne by the division from 1916 to 1936 was discarded, and in its place the 1939–45 47th Div. chose a sign signifying Bow Bells.

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48th (South Midland) Infantry Division

The 48th was the first Territorial Division to join the BEF, crossing to France in January 1940. Having fought in the battle of St. Omer/La Bassée, the division was evacuated to the United Kingdom, where it remained for the rest of the war. The divisional sign featured the diamond shape of its Great War predecessor, but in red instead of white, and set on a blue oval; in addition a blue Macaw bird was superimposed on the diamond.

49th (West Riding) Infantry Division

The 49th mobilised as a first-line Territorial Division on the outbreak of war. It did not go to France with the BEF, being sent piecemeal to Norway in April 1940. After the withdrawal from that country the 49th Div. sailed for Iceland, carrying out occupation duties until 1942 when it returned to the UK to train for the Second Front. Landing in Normandy on 12 June 1944, the division fought in the battles of The Odon and The Scheldt, coming under the command of the Canadian Army in November 1944 for the bitter fighting which led to the liberation of the Netherlands. Until 1942 personnel of the 49th Div. continued to wear their pre-war divisional sign of a white rose on uniform; this was worn with the 'Fox's Glacier Mint' polar bear sign which became the sole divisional sign after the division's return from Iceland. (Later, the bear was redesigned to look less placid.) Units with the division in 1945 included 2nd South Wales Borderers, 2nd Glosters, 2nd Essex, 4th Lincolns, 1st/4th KOYLI, Hallamshire Battalion¹, 7th Duke of Wellington's, 11th Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1st Leicesters and 2nd Kensingtons (MG).

50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division

The 50th, a first-line Territorial Division, were organised as a Motor Division at the outbreak of war and went to France with the BEF in January 1940 as such. After fighting at the battle of Ypres/Comines Canal the Division was evacuated via Dunkirk, and immediately reorganised as an Infantry Division. The 50th next saw action in the Middle East, where they were sent in April 1941,

¹The Hallamshire Bn.—originally the 4th (Hallamshire) Bn. of the York and Lancaster Regiment (TF)—was redesignated in 1924, and during the Second World War was the only Territorial battalion of the Yorks and Lancs.



Middle East, 1944: this fine study of the drum major of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers was taken while the 78th Div. were enjoying a rest in Egypt in late 1944. Note the divisional sign and the 38th (Irish) Inf.Bde. sign worn on the shoulder straps; the green shamrock patch backing the badge in the 'caubeen' cap, and the ribbons of the General Service Medal (Palestine), Africa Star (1st Army) and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Cf. Plate C5. (IWM)

serving in Egypt, Cyprus, Iraq and Syria before fighting in the battles of Gazala, Mersa Matruh, Defence of Alamein Line, El Alamein, Mareth, Akarit, Enfidaville and Landing in Sicily. Withdrawn to the United Kingdom in October/November 1943, the 50th went on to spearhead the Normandy landings and to fight in the battle of The Nederrijn before being withdrawn into reserve in the United Kingdom in December 1944. The 50th Div. mobilised under their old, Great War divisional sign of a unicorn, but were ordered to choose a new sign before proceeding to France. The double-T motif was chosen because they appear to form an 'H', symbolising 'Tyne, Tees and Humber'. Units on the strength of the 50th Div. on 'D'-Day included 2nd Cheshire (MG), 6th, 8th and 9th DLI, 5th East Yorks, 6th and 7th Green Howards, 2nd Devons, 1st Dorset and 1st Hampshires. Also



Far East, 1943: a plaque erected in Singapore to the memory of the GOC of the 18th Inf.Div. bears the divisional 'windmill' sign at its centre: cf. Plate A. (IWM)

under command for the 'D'-Day operation were the battalions of the 56th Infantry Brigade.

51st (Highland) Infantry Division

Technically, there were two 51st Highland Divisions. The first was the original pre-war, first-line Territorial formation which, after mobilisation, went to France to join the BEF in January 1940. When the German *blitzkrieg* was launched in May 1940 the 51st were detached from the BEF and under French command. Driven back to the Channel coast, the majority of the division were forced to surrender at St. Valery-en-Caux. The survivors returned to the United Kingdom where they joined the 51st Div's duplicate, the 9th (Highland) Div., which in August 1940 was redesignated the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division. Thus the title of what many considered to have been Britain's finest division in the Great War was maintained.

The new 51st proceeded overseas in June 1942, arriving in Egypt in time to fight in the battles of El Alamein, Medenine, Mareth, Akarit, Enfidaville and Tunis before moving on to the Landing in Sicily and Adrano, prior to being shipped back to

the United Kingdom in November 1943 to prepare for the Second Front. Landing in the Normandy beachhead on 'D + 1' the 51st Highland Div. went on to fight in the battles of Bourguebus Ridge, Falaise, The Rhineland and The Rhine. The battle insignia of the 51st Highland Div. is almost a study in itself.

The original division had to give up their prized 'HD' sign before proceeding to France in 1940. There they displayed a stag's head on a field of green and purple, and chose a system of crosses and bars for battle insignia on uniform. The re-formed division reverted to the 'HD' divisional sign of 1916-18 and the interwar years. This was displayed on vehicles, worn on uniform, and generally splashed about so much by the divisional military police that the saying became common that the initials stood for 'Highway Decorators'. In fact, the battle insignia of the 51st Highland Div. is not at all complicated if the 'tribal' regimental insignia common to all Highland infantry are disregarded. Units with the Division in 1945 included 2nd Seaforth, 5th Camerons, 5th Seaforth, 5th Black Watch, 1st Gordons, 5th/7th Gordons, 7th Argylls, 1st Black Watch, 7th Black Watch and 1st/7th Middlesex (MG).

52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division

A first-line Territorial formation at the outbreak of war, the 52nd went to France in June 1940 *after* Dunkirk to cover the withdrawal from the area of the Cherbourg Peninsula. Back in the UK the division trained for mountain warfare from May 1942 to June 1944. In August and September 1944 the 52nd trained in airlanding operations; but in fact they were destined to fight in neither of these specialised rôles. Instead, the division crossed the Channel in October 1944 to fight in the battles of The Scheldt, The Rhineland and The Rhine. As a divisional sign the 52nd chose a simplified form of their 1916-39 insignia, to which they added a scroll bearing the legend 'Mountain' when trained for that rôle. Units serving with the division in 1945 included 7th/9th Royal Scots, 4th and 5th KOSB, 6th HLI, 4th/5th Royal Scots Fusiliers, 6th and 7th Cameronians, 1st Glasgow Highlanders, 5th HLI and 7th Manchesters (MG). The 1st Mountain Regt., RA also served with the division from 1942 to 1945.

53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division

Another first-line Territorial formation at the outbreak of war, the 53rd was not packed off to France with the BEF. Remaining in the UK it was converted to a Mixed Division in 1942/3, reverting to the rôle of Infantry Division for the Second Front. Crossing to the Normandy bridgehead in late June 1944 the 53rd (Welsh) Div. went on to fight in the battles of The Odon, Caen, Mont Pincon, Falaise, The Nederrijn, The Rhineland and The Rhine. The 53rd did not choose to use their Great War divisional sign, electing instead a red 'W', whose symbolism has been explained in several ways. Units with the division in 1944/45 included 1st East Lancs, 1st HLI, 1st Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire LI, 4th, 6th and 7th Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1st/5th Welch, 4th Welch, 2nd Monmouths and 1st Manchesters (MG).

54th (East Anglian) Infantry Division

A first-line Territorial formation at the outbreak of

war, the 54th never went overseas, being placed on lower establishment in January 1942 and 'ceasing to exist' in December 1943. In that time its HQ divisional RA had been taken off to become an HQ AGRA, its divisional RE had been sent to 6th Airborne Div. and its infantry posted to lines of communications duties. There was a vague similarity between the signs used by this division in the two World Wars—the 'J' formed by the umbrella handle in the Great War sign was repeated in the 'JP' monogram in the later one.

55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division

Yet another first-line Territorial formation at the outbreak of war, the 55th was organised as a Motor Division. It underwent several changes of rôle and

Burma, January 1945: a truckload of men of the 36th Inf.Div. drive past their GOC, Maj.Gen. Festing. The divisional sign on their hats is repeated on the tailboard of the Dodge 1-tonner—cf. Plate G3. The white-on-red '68' tactical sign also on the tailboard identifies a battalion of the 72nd Inf.Bde., in this case the 10th Glosters. (IWM)





Burma, 1945: RSM J. Haggart of the 1st Cameron Highlanders, 6th Inf.Bde., 2nd Inf.Div. wearing jungle-green drill Battle-dress, with 2nd Div. sign, and the ribbons of the 1939-45 Star and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. (IWM)

establishment between 1939 and 1945, but never went overseas. The divisional sign was that which the division had used since 1916, the red rose.

56th (London) Infantry Division

Another first-line Territorial formation organised as a Motor Division at the outbreak of war. (The 56th was then known as the 1st London Division, remaining so until redesignated in November 1940.) In June 1940 it was reorganised as an Infantry Division, and as such it proceeded overseas in August 1942, journeying to Iraq, Palestine and Egypt before fighting the battles of Enfidaville and Tunis. The 56th Div. then moved to Italy, participating in the battles of Salerno, Capture of Naples, Volturno Crossing, Monte Camino, Garigliano Crossing, Anzio, Gothic Line, Coriano, Rimini Line, Lamone Crossing and Argenta Gap. Long-serving units of the division included 8th and

9th Royal Fusiliers, 1st London Irish Rifles, 1st London Scottish, 10th Royal Berkshires, 2nd/5th, 2nd/6th and 2nd/7th Queen's and 6th Cheshire (MG). The 201st Guards Bde. was also under command of the 56th Div. for an appreciable period in 1943/44. The 56th (London) Div. chose not to use their Great War divisional sign, adopting in its place a black cat, said to represent Dick Whittington's cat.

57th Infantry Division

Yet another deception division formed in North Africa in November 1943, by the redesignation of the 42nd Infantry Brigade. (In much the same way the 43rd Infantry Bde. had been used to raise a phantom '40th Division'.) The units of the brigade—the 30th Bns. of the Northumberland Fusiliers, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshires, DCLI, Green Howards and Suffolks—were designated brigades, and the brigadier given the local rank of major-general. The divisional sign chosen for the '57th Div.' was that of their Great War predecessors: the Derby 'D'. In time this appeared on the Germans' enemy order of battle charts (strangely, it was shown as inverted from its Great War configuration), proving that the phantom 57th had done their job.

(No **58th Division** was ever formed.)

59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division

In being as the duplicate of the 55th Div. at the outbreak of war, the 59th was organised as a Motor Division. Reorganised as an Infantry Division in 1940, the 59th remained in the United Kingdom, training for the Second Front and crossing to the Normandy beachhead in late June 1944, after which it took part in the battles of Caen and Mont Pincon. In October 1944 the division was broken up to provide reinforcements for the 2nd Army. Units with the division at the time of its break-up included 7th South Staffords, 6th North Staffords, 7th Royal Norfolk, 5th, 1st/6th and 2nd/6th Royal Warwicks and 7th Northumberland Fusiliers (MG). The 59th chose not to perpetuate the sign of the Great War 59th Div., substituting one depicting pit-head winding gear.

(No **60th Division** was ever formed.)

61st Infantry Division

As in the Great War, the 61st was the 'second-line' or duplicate of the 48th Division. Apart from a brief excursion by the divisional HQ to Norway in April 1940, the 61st did not serve overseas during the war, although the division had re-formed as a 'Light Division' in August 1945 preparatory to moving to the Far East—a journey the Japanese surrender made unnecessary. The 61st chose a similar divisional sign to the 48th, a red diamond on a blue square, and had an interesting variation of brigade seniority bars.

(No **62nd to 65th Divisions** were ever formed.)

66th Infantry Division

The duplicate of the 42nd Div., the 66th was disbanded in June 1940. During its short life it did resurrect the Great War divisional sign for use.

(No **67th to 69th Divisions**, nor **71st to 75th Divisions** were ever formed.)

76th and 77th Infantry Divisions

Formed in the United Kingdom in 1941, neither of these formations served overseas, both being disbanded by September 1944.

78th Infantry Division

Formed in the UK in the summer of 1942, the division embarked for overseas that October and was in action with the 1st Army in Tunisia before the close of the year. The 78th fought at the battles of Tebourba Gap, Oued Zarga, Medjez Plain and Tunis in North Africa; Adrano in Sicily; and The Sangro, Cassino II, Liri Valley, Trasimene Line, Advance to Florence, The Senio and Argenta Gap in Italy. Units serving with the division from late 1942 onwards included 3rd Grenadier Guards, 2nd Coldstream Guards, 2nd Hampshires, 8th Argylls, 3rd Welsh Guards, 6th Royal West Kents, 5th

Burma, 1945: a group of British officers of the 20th Indian Inf.Div. gather around a jeep for a conference. Note the divisional sign worn on the sleeves (white hand and *tulwar* on a black square); and the interesting assortment of hats. (IWM)



Bufs, 2nd London Irish Rifles, 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd and 6th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and 1st Kensingtons (MG). The battleaxe chosen as a divisional sign led to the inevitable 'Battleaxe Division' nickname. This was proudly worn on just about all forms of dress (including denim overalls in one example seen), along with an astonishing variety of regimental flashes which nearly all contravened the War Office regulations. No other insignia—regimental titles, arm-of-service strips,

etc.—seem to have been worn by the Battleaxe Division.

(No **79th Division** was ever formed.)

80th Infantry (Reserve) Division

This formation was raised in the United Kingdom in January 1943 and disbanded there in September 1944.

* * *

Burma, July 1945: Cpl. R. Price, 1st Queen's, 7th Indian Inf.Div., returns from a fighting patrol. Note the divisional sign, a golden arrow on a black disc. (IWM)

Indian Army Formations

Although not within the scope of this book, mention must be made of the Indian Army. Throughout the Second World War, in Burma, North Africa, Italy and other theatres, Indian Army formations usually had one British battalion in each brigade, and a high proportion of the artillery in each division from the British Army. A proportion of the officer establishment of Indian units were British. British troops, therefore, wore Indian Army battle insignia, and a representative selection is shown in this book.

British Army Uniforms 1939-45

The following resumé of the uniforms worn by British troops in the Second World War is set out to avoid repetition in the captions to the artwork.

Headress

In battle, the item of headgear common to all was the steel helmet. Rarely worn by infantry without a cover of hessian and netting, the helmet therefore carried no battle insignia. Regimental badges or devices were painted on helmets but were inevitably obscured by camouflage covering of one sort or another.

The cap intended to be worn with Battledress was the Field Service cap, sometimes called a sidecap. Field Service caps in regimental and corps colours were also worn in an attempt to add colour to Battledress on parade or off duty. Scottish regiments wore the Tam-o'-Shanter bonnet in place of the drab Field Service cap, and Guards



continued to wear the Service Dress cap. From 1943 onwards the General Service cap and drab beret began to replace the Field Service cap. Officers in some regiments were permitted to wear Service Dress caps with Battledress, but this practice was not as widespread as it became post-war.

Overseas, the Field Service cap rapidly replaced the topee, first in the Middle East and by 1942 in the Far East, where the bush hat became the almost universal item of headgear.

Coloured berets became increasingly popular and were taken into use by a number of units, chiefly Royal Armoured Corps, Airborne and Special Service troops.

Battledress

In the United Kingdom there were basically two patterns of Battledress: the pattern authorised at the outbreak of war (called the 'first-pattern') and the pattern modified for economy of manufacture (called the 'utility-pattern'). Both patterns were modified and issued with a variety of buttons, buckles, etc. The story of the development and service of these patterns is covered in the accompanying title MAA 112 *British Battledress 1937-61*. Less well chronicled is the 'Middle East pattern' Battledress, worn by hundreds of thousands of British troops in the Middle East, Italy and the United Kingdom. This variety began to be seen in 1943, and had the distinction of being fly-fronted like the first-pattern, but having exposed buttons on the pocket flaps in the manner of the utility-pattern. The material from which the Middle East pattern was made had a distinctly 'woolly' look, and the visible buttons were large, plain and flat. Where the Middle East pattern was manufactured is not known, but it could have been in Palestine, Egypt or even Italy.

A suit of Battledress made up in drab denim was issued to be worn as an overall. This was extensively worn as a combat uniform towards the end of the war, particularly in Italy, where odd examples have been noted of battle insignia being worn on the denims.

Greatcoats

There was a single pattern only in the Second World War. The only battle insignia worn on greatcoats were arm-of-service strips.



Burma, 1945: Cpl. George Moran of the Royal Signals serving with the Indian Army Air Formation Signals, Fourteenth Army. The diamond-shaped patch is halved white and blue and bears a red aircraft and star. (IWM)

Tropical uniform

The official tropical uniform up to 1939 was a Service Dress made of khaki drill, but this was rarely worn except for parades, with khaki shirts and shorts being the preferred dress for day-to-day wear. This practice continued after the outbreak of war, with the issue of 'Bombay Bloomers' as an abortive attempt to equip the troops with a garment that fulfilled the purposes of both short and long trousers.

In the Middle East khaki drill from the United



Normandy, 1944: a sapper of the 3rd Inf.Div. takes a break after the fight to establish the Normandy beachhead. Beneath the RE Corps title on his arm he wears the divisional sign, blue and red Royal Engineers arm-of-service strip, and cobalt blue regimental flashes with white numerals '50': these were the same as the unit's vehicle tactical signs.

Kingdom clothing factories was almost always worn. This conformed to a general pattern which never changed throughout the war. In India and Burma, however, much khaki drill was made up by Indian contractors' tailors (*dharzis*) and conformed to no pattern at all.

From 1943 a change took place in British Army tropical combat clothing. In the Middle East denim trousers and drab flannel shirts were seen to be the most practical form of dress, and in the Far East

jungle-green dress began to be seen. At first this was simply the shirt and trousers of the old khaki drill uniform dyed green. A pattern was then made up from 'jungle-green' drill, featuring a bush jacket and trousers. Finally, Battledress was reproduced from jungle-green drill. Clothing came from factories in India, in the United Kingdom, and from the sewing-machines of the thousands of *dharzis* who followed the units of the British and Indian Armies. There was, therefore, a confusing variety of patterns of shirts, bush jackets, blouses and trousers (many of which were stored after the war and issued during the Malayan Emergency). Shades of green varied from blotched khaki and pale green to the almost bottle green of one pattern of UK origin.

Footwear

Whether in Iceland or the jungles of South-East Asia the British soldier marched and fought in his clumsy, hob-nailed 'ammos'—'ammunition' or ankle boots. He carried with him a pair of canvas and rubber 'gym' shoes, which were frequently worn as patrol footwear.

The Plates

A: British Expeditionary Force/United Kingdom

Few Territorial units were equipped with Battledress in September 1939. At top left **A1**, a private of one of the two Liverpool Scottish battalions in 165th Inf.Bde., 55th (West Lancashire) Motor Division is dressed typically for the period. Note the regimental headdress and insignia and the divisional sign (the red rose) on his sleeve. By the time Territorial formations reached France in 1940 they had been re-equipped; and the sergeant of the 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at top right, **A2**, presents the uniform appearance of the time. Note the battle insignia of the 51st (Highland) Div. on his sleeve: the St. Andrew's Cross was the divisional symbol, the colour indicated the 154th Inf.Bde. and the mark below the cross the 8th Argylls. In the centre a captain of the 9th Royal Norfolks, **A3**, is depicted during training in the United Kingdom in 1943. Note the recently-introduced regimental titles, 47th (London)

Inf.Div. battle insignia, and the Royal Norfolks' regimental flash as worn by this battalion. Our subject wears the full 'battle order' equipment of the period, and carries a Lease-Lend US Smith and Wesson .38 in. revolver and a No. 74 'sticky bomb' anti-tank grenade. At centre left a colour sergeant of the 2nd/4th Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, **A4**, is shown in 'walking-out' dress, 1942. Note the regimental Field Service cap, metal (non-regulation) titles, 46th Inf.Div. battle insignia, and regimental badges of rank. At centre right a private of the 1st Kings Own Scottish Borderers, **A5**, is depicted as at September 1943, displaying the battle insignia of the 3rd Inf.Div. and the regimental flash adopted by the 1st KOSB in commemoration of their battalion's service with the 29th Div. in the Great War. **Insignia** patches include (**left to right**) 24th Guards Bde.; 18th Inf.Div.; 'Phantom' signal regiment flash; 45th Inf.Div. vehicle sign.

B: The Middle East

At top right, **B1**, a sergeant of the 1st Irish Guards, 24th (Guards) Inf.Bde., 1st Inf.Div., is depicted at an investiture in Tunisia in 1943. Note the regimental insignia on cap and shirtsleeves, and the divisional sign worn on 'slides' on the shoulderstraps. The medal ribbon is that of the Military Medal. At bottom left, **B2**, an anti-aircraft Bren-gunner of the 2nd Buffs takes post in the Western Desert in 1942. Note the divisional battle insignia of the 44th (Home Counties) Inf.Div., regimental titles and flash, good conduct badges indicating more than 12 years' service and the light machine gunner's marksman's badge. At top left, **B3**, a lieutenant of the 93rd Anti-Tank Regt., Royal Artillery is portrayed in Palestine in 1945. The 93rd were originally Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the dress distinctions of the Argylls were preserved in the headdress and regimental badges worn by the unit. Note the combined divisional sign/artillery 'patch', the Argylls' diced regimental flash, and the Other Ranks' 'slide' featuring both. At bottom right, **B4**, a major of one of the Black Watch battalions of the 51st (Highland) Div. is shown in Sicily in 1943. The patch of khaki drill material displaying the divisional sign and regimental flash was worn on the left sleeve only in examples noted. **Insignia (left to right)** at the



Austria, 1945: in the months following the Axis surrender in Europe there was time for festivals and thanksgiving for liberation. Here a sergeant of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, 38th (Irish) Inf.Bde., 78th Div., chats to a girl in Czech national costume. Note the arm-of-service strip incorrectly placed on the sergeant's sleeve, below the brigade sign.

bottom of the plate include: 56th (London) Inf.Div.; 8th Indian Div.; 4th Inf.Div. (final pattern); 78th Inf.Div. 'slides' for 1st East Surreys, 6th Royal West Kents and 214th Field Company, RE respectively.

C: Italy, 1944/45

At left, a private of the 1st London Scottish, **C1**, marches up to the line carrying a PIAT anti-tank weapon and ammunition during winter 1944/45. Note the 'battle order' equipment, leather jerkin, and regimental 'Hodden grey' patch behind the badge on his Tam-o'-Shanter bonnet. Note also the divisional sign of the 56th (London) Inf.Div. (a black 'Dick Whittington's cat'); the single arm-of-

service strip where two had been worn previously (the London Scots had recently moved from 168 to 167 Bde.), and the London Scottish regimental flash. At right, **C2**, a captain of the 5th Hampshires is portrayed in 1945. Along with the 2nd and 1st/4th Hampshires the 5th Bn. served in 128th (Hampshire) Inf.Bde., and had a distinguished record in North Africa and Italy. All units wore the regimental title shown, with the divisional sign of the 46th Inf.Div., arm-of-service strips, and regimental flashes which varied from battalion to battalion. Company strips were worn on the shoulder straps throughout the brigade indicating 'A' Coys. by green, 'B' Coys. by red, 'C' Coys. by yellow and 'D' Coys. by purple; 2nd Hampshire companies were lettered 'W', 'X', 'Y' and 'Z', but the colour sequence was the same. Note the officers' cap badge; the 'Middle East' pattern Battledress; and the ribbons of the Military Cross, 1939-45 Star,

Africa Star, Italy Star and the US Bronze Star. **Insignia** shown at the centre of the plate include: (**top to bottom**) the regimental flash of the London Scottish; 5th Inf.Div. insignia of the 6th Seaforths, 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and 2nd Northants; regimental flash of 237 Field Coy., RE, 78th Inf.Div. (a cloth version of the vehicle tactical sign); and the regimental flash of the 5th Northants, also 78th Division.

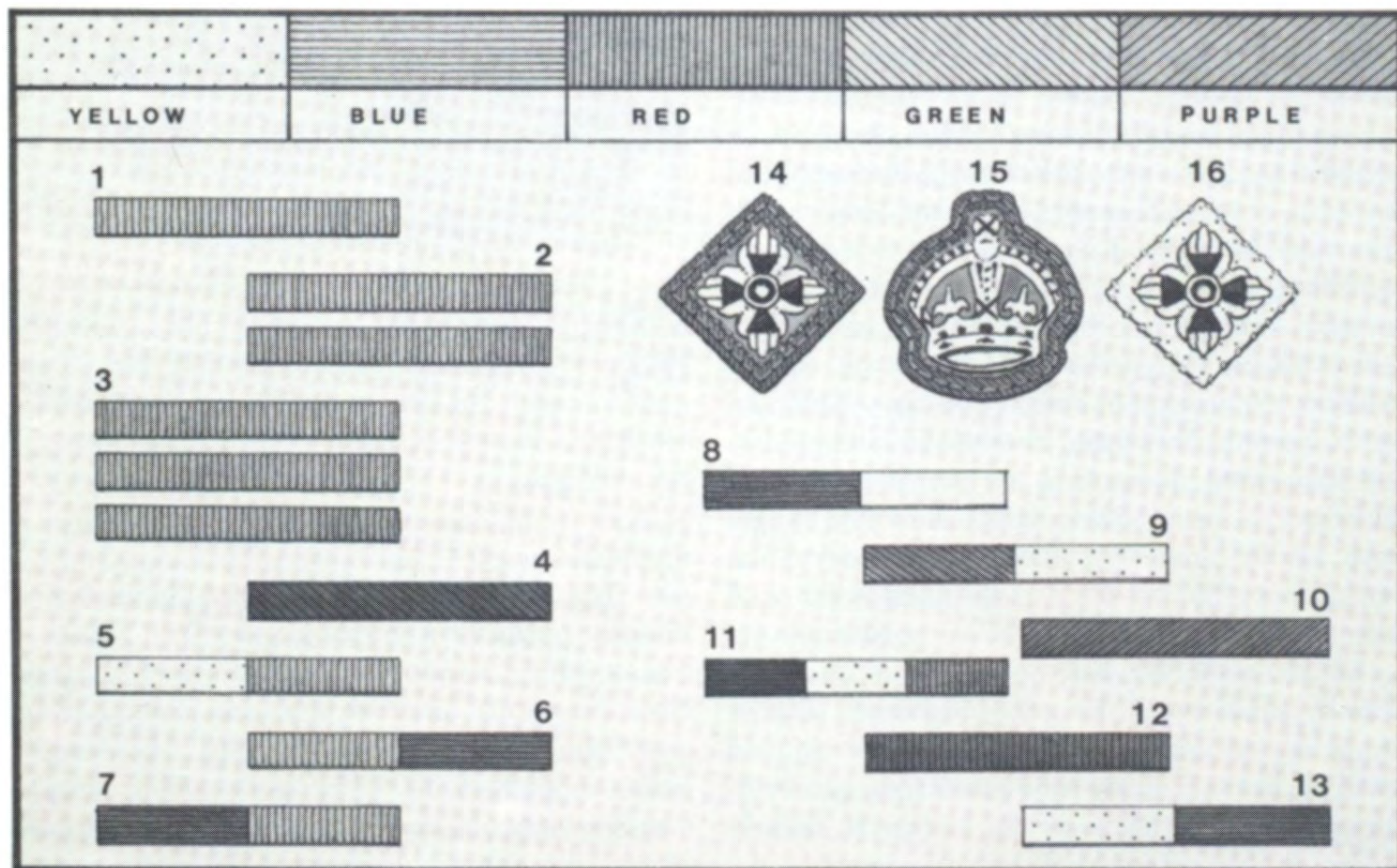
Serving with the 78th Div. in Italy were the 38th (Irish) Infantry Brigade. The first three figures at the bottom of the plate are from units of 38th Bde. in 1945. At left, **C3**, is a company sergeant major of the 2nd London Irish Rifles (note the rifle-green caubeen cap, 'Middle East' pattern Battledress, lanyard and other regimental distinctions). Next, **C4**, is a sergeant of the 2nd Inniskillings who, by this time, had moved their Great War 29th Div. flash from their sleeves to their caps. Completing the trio

(NB: THE KEY TO COLOUR VALUE SHADINGS AT THE TOP OF THIS DIAGRAM IS COMMON TO ALL DIAGRAMS IN THIS BOOK.)

Arm-of-service strips and rank backing: all 2 ins. by a quarter inch. (1) Infantry (scarlet)—a senior brigade. (2) Infantry—an intermediate brigade. (3) Infantry—a junior brigade. (4) Infantry—rifle regiments. (5) Royal Armoured Corps. (6) Royal Artillery. (7) Royal Engineers. (8) Royal Signals. (9) Reconnaissance Regiment. (10) Royal Army Medical Corps (cherry). (11) Royal Electrical and Mechanical

Engineers. (12) Corps of Military Police. (13) Royal Army Service Corps. (14) Officer's star with scarlet infantry backing. (15) Officer's crown with green Recce backing. (16) Officer's star with yellow RAC backing.

All strips are as viewed on the left arm; multi-coloured strips would be reversed for the right arm. Not all strips are shown here, nor are examples of all officer's rank enhancing colours.



is a sergeant of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, **C5**. All wear 78th Div. signs with 38th Bde. signs. The final figure, **C6**, is that of a company sergeant major of the 1st Duke of Wellington's in 1945, note the regimental distinctions and the 1st Inf.Div. sign.

D: Miscellaneous subjects

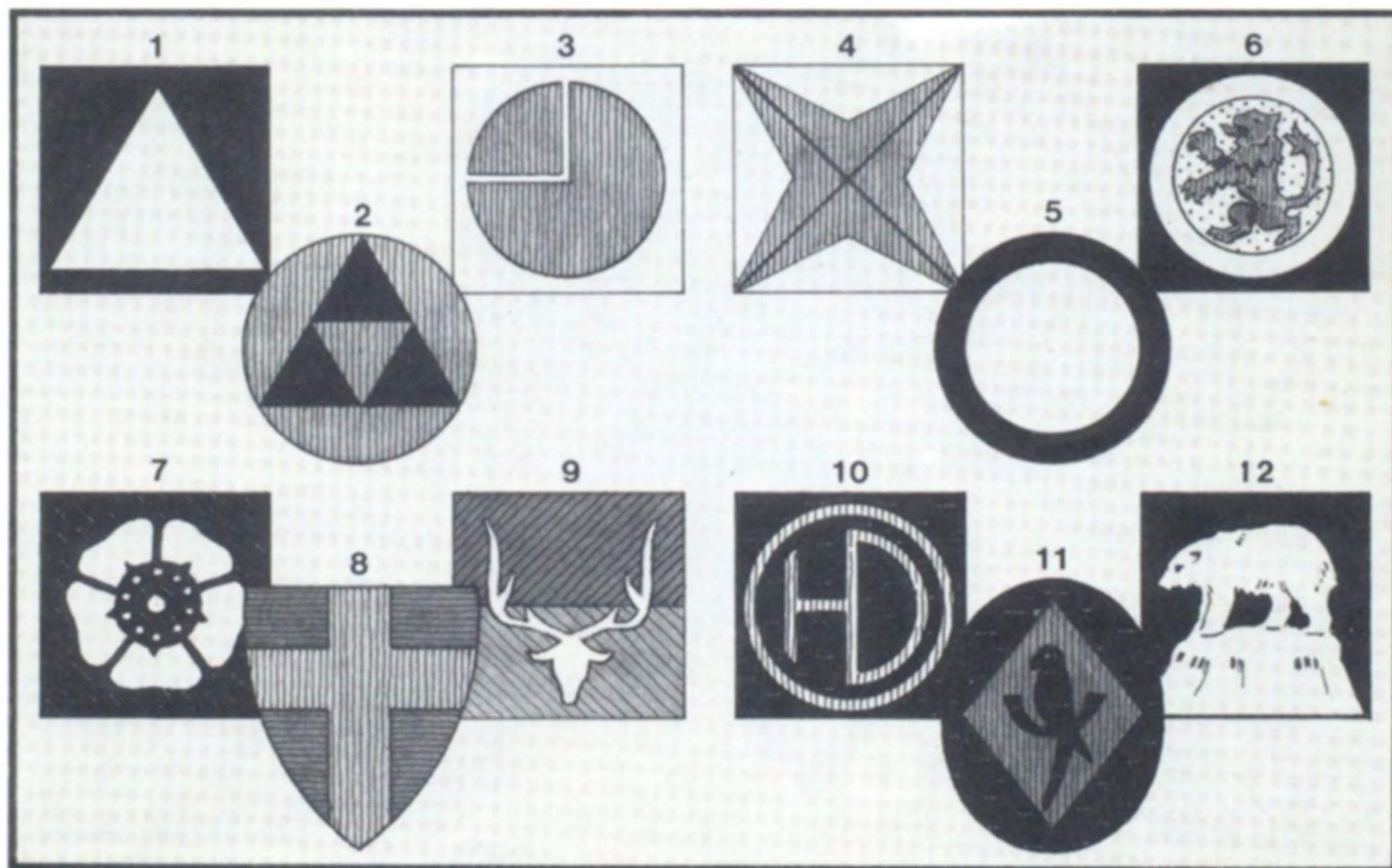
D1: Piper, 6th Seaforth Highlanders, Italy, 1945. Our subject is dressed in all the regimental finery of a Highland unit, but of particular note is the 5th Div. battle insignia on his Battledress sleeves (see also Plate C). Note also the good conduct badges on his left cuff; and the ribbons of the 1939-45 Star and the Italy Star. **D2:** Gunner, 1st Anti-Aircraft Division, UK, 1941. Hitting back at the Luftwaffe while Britain waited to be invaded was A/A Command. The typical dress worn on the gunsites is depicted here, with the battle insignia of the 1st A/A Div. and Royal Artillery arm-of-service strips. **D3:** Sergeant, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, Normandy, 1944. With their regimental flash worn on the sleeves of the denim

tank suit and stencilled on the tank crew helmet, the 13th/18th were one of the few units who wore battle insignia on overalls. **D4:** Private, 2nd/4th Hampshires, UK, 1941. The 128th (Hampshire) Inf.Bde. formed part of the 43rd (Wessex) Inf.Div. until transferred out in June 1942. Our subject wears the regimental Field Service cap; company slides for battalion headquarters; regimental titles; divisional battle insignia; and regimental flashes peculiar to his battalion. **D5:** Corporal, 1st Hampshires, 231 (Malta) Infantry Brigade, Sicily, 1943. The brigade sign of this formation was worn on the right sleeve only, the only known example of this practice. **D6:** Sergeant, 2nd Hampshires, 46th Infantry Division, Italy 1944. Dressed for patrolling in a specially adapted leather jerkin, our subject bears the battle insignia of his division with the regimental flash of his battalion.

D7: Captain, 7th Hampshires, 43rd (Wessex) Division, 1944. Note the white-on-red regulation regimental titles worn by this battalion, and the divisional battle insignia. Dress and equipment are

Divisional vehicle signs, also painted on signboards, tactical signs, etc: (1) 1st Infantry Division. (2) 3rd Inf. Div. (3) 4th Inf. Div. final pattern. (4) 6th (later 70th) Inf.Div. (5) 15th (Scottish) Inf.Div., first pattern. (6) Later pattern, 25th (Scottish) Inf.Div. (7) 23rd (Northumbrian) Inf.Div. (8) 8th Inf.Div. (9) 51st

(Highland) Inf.Div., when with BEF, 1940. (10) 51st (Highland) Inf.Div. from late 1940. (11) 48th (South Midland) Inf.Div. (12) 49th (West Riding) Inf.Div., first pattern (thought to have been adopted from the trademark of 'Fox's Glacier Mint', still made in the area from which the 49th Div. was raised).



typical for a rifle company officer in Normandy.
D8: *Sergeant, 43rd Royal Tank Regiment, UK, 1943.* The 33rd Tank Bde., which included the 43rd Royal Tanks, formed part of the 3rd Div. when it was organised as a 'mixed' division in 1942 and 1943. Note the regimental beret; divisional sign; Royal Armoured Corps arm-of-service strip; brigade 'diabolo' sign; RTR right sleeve tank badge; and regimental flash worn on the shoulder straps.
D9: *Company Sergeant Major, 2nd West Yorks, 21st Infantry Brigade, Sudan, 1940.* In the opening months of the war the dress, equipment and insignia of the British Army in the Middle East remained very much as it had been for many years. In the 2nd West Yorks regimental flashes were worn on the topee—an item of headgear soon to be discarded.
D10: *Colour Sergeant, 2nd Royal Ulster Rifles, NW Europe, 1944/45.* The RUR wore Rifle regiment dress distinctions as shown here—black tunic buttons and badges of rank and green Rifles arm-of-service strips. Note also the 'caubeen' style of

wearing the General Service cap, the company 'slides' on the shoulder straps, and the patch behind the cap badge.

Insignia (left to right) 2nd Inf.Div.; 49th Inf.Div. vehicle sign; 53rd (Welsh) Inf.Div. vehicle sign; 80th Inf.Div. (UK reserve formation); 6th Anti-Aircraft Div.; Lincoln County Div.; Hampshire County Div.; 7th Armd.Bde.; 4th Armd.Bde.; regimental flash, 6th Northumberland Fusiliers.

E: *North-West Europe, 1944*

The central figure, **E1**, shows a captain of the 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) in Normandy, August 1944. Note the regimental band worn around the beret; regimental cap and collar badges, lanyard, titles, and regimental shoulder strap flashes—all worn with 4th Armd.Bde. battle insignia; the medal ribbon is that of the Africa Star. Top left, **E2**, is a second lieutenant, 4th Royal Welch Fusiliers in late 1944: note the regimental flash at the back of the collar,

Divisional vehicle signs: (1) 47th (London) Inf.Div. (2) 54th (East Anglian) Inf.Div. (3) 55th (West Lancashire) Div. (4) 78th Inf.Div. (5) 8th Armoured Div. (6) 57th Inf.Div., as reproduced in German Intelligence charts. (7) 1st Armd.Div. (combined divisional/tactical sign used by the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers

in Italy, 1944). (8) Guards Armd.Div. (9) 42nd (East Lancashire) Armd.Div. (10) 10th Armd.Div. (11) 12th (Eastern) Inf.Div. (12) 52nd (Lowland) Inf.Div. (13) 7th Armd.Div. (combined divisional/tactical sign for divisional headquarters, North Africa, 1943).



and the battle insignia of the 71st Inf.Bde., 53rd (Welsh) Inf. Division. At top right, **E3**, a lieutenant-colonel, 1st/4th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry displays KOYLI regimental distinctions (including the unique lanyard) and 49th Inf.Div. battle insignia. At **E4** a lieutenant of the 2nd Kensingtons, the machine gun battalion to the 49th Div., shows his unit's regimental distinctions with the sign of the 49th Division. Note that no arm-of-service strip was worn. On the left, **E5** is a captain of the 2nd East Yorkshires at the time of the 'D'-Day landings. Note the collar badge worn as a cap badge, the regimental flash and lanyard, and the 3rd Inf.Div. battle insignia. At bottom centre **E6**, a major in the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, wears the black beret in use by most units of the Royal Armoured Corps by 1944, regimental cap and collar badges, regimental flash, and 8th Indep.Armd.Bde. battle insignia.

Insignia (left to right) include 52nd (Lowland)

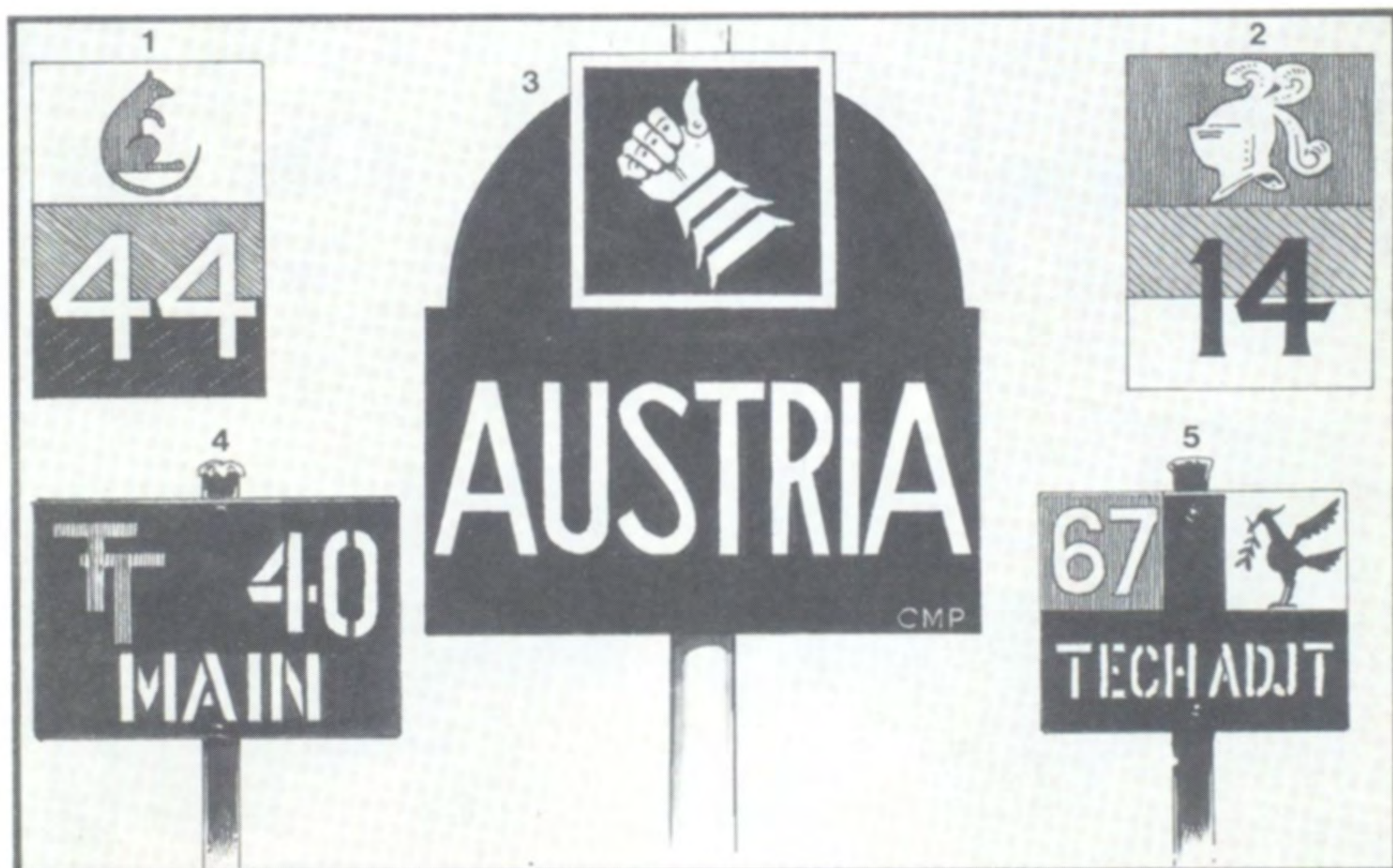
Inf.Div.; 33rd Armd.Bde.; and regimental flashes of the Cheshire Regt., and the 102nd Anti-Tank Regt., Royal Artillery (Northumberland Hussars).

F: North-West Europe, 1945

At top left, **F1**, a guardsman of the 4th (Armoured) Coldstream Guards, 6th Guards Armd.Bde., displays the black beret, regimental insignia and battle insignia worn by his unit in the last months of the war. At top centre, **F2**, an NCO of the Auxilliary Territorial Service (ATS) serving with a signals unit at Gen. Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) in 1945, displays the regimental Field Service cap, regimental insignia and SHAEF sign worn at the time. Note the Royal Corps of Signals badge worn on the Battledress blouse. At right, **F3** is a colour-sergeant of the 2nd Bn. Gloucestershire Regiment in field service marching order; in 1945 the 2nd Glosters wore the brigade sign of the 56th Inf.Bde.

Tactical signs: (1) 7th Armd.Div. (combined divisional and tactical sign painted on the vehicles of the 11th Hussars in the Berlin victory parade, 1945). (2) 2nd Armd.Div. (combined divisional and tactical sign painted on the vehicles of the King's Dragoon Guards when armoured car regiment to the 2nd Armd.Div., 1941). (3) 6th Armd.Div. (sign erected by the

divisional provost at the Austro-Italian border after the Axis surrender. The thumb of the gauntlet flicked up and down electrically!) (4) 50th (Tyne, Tees and Humber) Inf.Div. (tactical sign indicating Div. HQ). (5) 23rd Independent Armd.Bde. Group, 1943 (tactical sign indicating the Technical Adjutant of the 50th Royal Tank Regt.)



below the divisional sign of the 49th (West Riding) Inf.Div. in the manner of a regimental flash. At centre left, **F4** is a private of the 8th Middlesex, the machine gun battalion to the 43rd (Wessex) Inf.Div.; note the regimental flashes of the battalion worn on the sleeves of the Battledress blouse and in the GS cap. **F5** is a Bren-gunner of the 4th King's Shropshire Light Infantry. The 4th KSLI had been collectively awarded the French *Croix de Guerre* in 1918, and the ribbon of this medal was still being proudly worn below the regimental title and above the divisional sign of the 11th Armd.Div. and the infantry arm-of-service strip.

Divisional signs of formations which served in the NW Europe campaign, 1944-45, are shown at the centre of the plate. **Anti-clockwise from the**

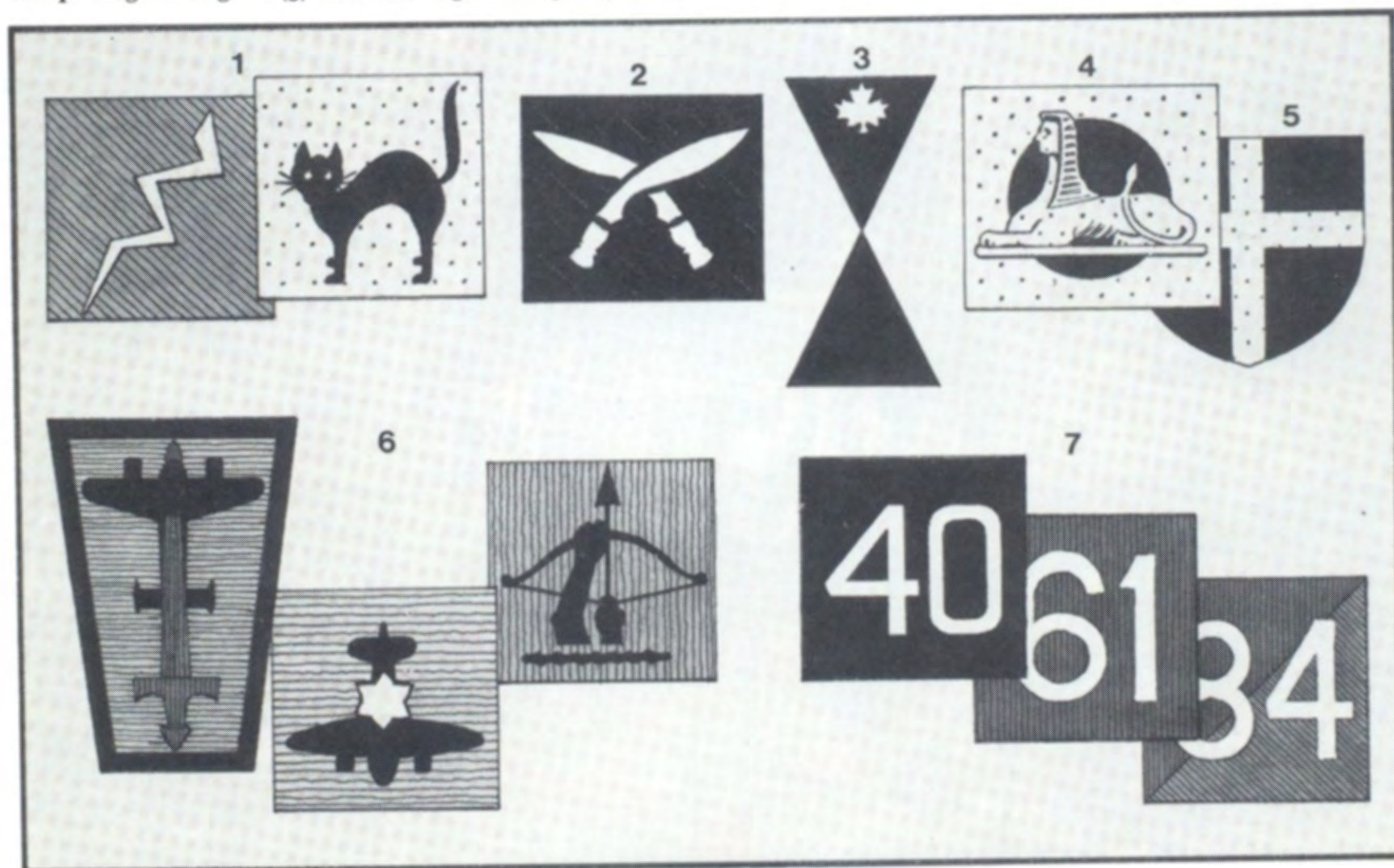
top they are: 59th (Staffordshire) Inf. Div.; the 7th Armd.Div.; 11th Armd.Div.; and 79th Armd.Div.; with **below (left to right)** 43rd (Wessex) Inf.Div.; 49th (West Riding) Inf.Div.; and 50th (Northumbrian) Inf.Div. ('Tyne, Tees and Humber').

G: The Far East

Battle insignia were rarely worn in the Far East before 1944/45, that of the 'Chindits' not being seen until their second expedition had ended in August 1944. The Chindit figure, **G1**, depicted on that second expedition, displays no insignia at all; his hat—splotched with green paint—is typical. At **top centre** are the divisional signs of the 19th (left) and 20th Indian Divs. as worn on bush hats and jungle-green GS caps. At right, **G2** is a private of the 2nd

Other formation signs: (1) After their retreat from Burma the 17th Indian Inf.Div. discarded their 'flash of lightning' divisional sign and chose in its place the black cat. (2) The crossed *kukri* knives of the 43rd Indian Lorried Inf.Bde. were familiar in Italy in 1944-45. Three Gurkha battalions made up the brigade. (3) Army Tank Brigades were supposed to wear two triangles—the 'diabolo'—in specified colours. The diabolo for the 25th Army Tank Bde. was black, and to this was added a maple leaf to commemorate the brigade's service with the 1st Canadian Inf.Div. in Italy. (4) The 56th Indep.Inf.Bde. chose as their sign the sphinx common to the cap badges of 2nd South Wales Borderers, 2nd Glosters and 2nd Essex—battalions comprising the brigade. (5) Divisional sign of the 38th (Welsh)

Inf.Div. (6) Twelve anti-aircraft ('Ack-Ack') divisions were actively engaged in the shooting war to defend Great Britain from German air attack. Typical of their divisional signs are those at left (1st A/A Div.) and centre (8th A/A Div.). In 1943 all A/A Command formations were ordered to wear the sign at right. (7) Tactical sign squares: these were borne on all vehicles and tactical signs and, in isolated cases, were worn on uniform. Numbers and background colours varied throughout the war, but by 1945 had finalised to black for Div. HQ; red and blue for artillery; cobalt blue for engineers; red, green or brown for brigades; blue and white for signal units; and red and green for RASC.



West Yorkshires displaying the uniform and insignia worn in Malaya, 1945, when his battalion was taking the surrender of the Japanese. Note the divisional sign of the 2nd Div.; the blackened webbing adopted by the West Yorks; and the ribbons of the 1939–45 Star, Africa Star and Burma Star. In the **centre** of the plate is the ‘Chinthe’ formation sign of the Chindits, with the red glider badge worn by those who had ridden to battle in 1944 in gliders.

Maj.-Gen. Orde Wingate corrupted the word ‘Chinthe’ (Burmese for lion) to ‘Chindit’ on hearing the word spoken by a Burmese interpreter. It was picked up by a journalist when in conversation with Wingate, and published in the *Daily Express* in May 1943. When the mistake was pointed out to Wingate he flew into a rage at what he saw as his stupidity, but was eventually pacified, and ‘Chindit’ passed into common usage. The correct title of the Chindits was ‘Long Range Penetration Groups’ in 1943/44, and subsequently ‘Special Force’ until

their disbandment in early 1945. No record of them ever being called ‘3rd Indian Division’ has been found. (The red glider badge was still being worn by survivors of the second expedition as late as 1952: the author’s first training NCO at Winchester wore such a badge.)

At bottom left, **G3**, a private of the 10th Glosters, wears the divisional sign of the 36th Inf.Div. with the regimental back-badge and titles of the Glosters. Other units in the 36th Div. wore regimental flashes stitched to the bush hat immediately above the divisional sign. **G4** is a major, 3rd/10th Gurkha Rifles, 37th Bde., 23rd Indian Inf.Div., 1945. Note his jungle-green GS cap, issue-pattern bush shirt, ‘pin-on’ divisional signs, and the ribbons of the Military Cross, India General Service Medal, 1939–45 Star, Burma Star and mentioned-in-dispatches emblem on a plain khaki ribbon. At **bottom right** is the divisional sign of the 5th Indian Inf.Div., the ‘ball of fire’.

Notes sur les planches en couleur

En raison du manque d'espace et du fait que l'identification directe de grade, bataillon, régiment, brigade et division ne demande pas de traduction, nous prions les lecteurs de bien vouloir ce reporter à la légende en anglais pour cette information.

A1 Uniform réglementaire d'avant-guerre encore courant en 1939. Notez la coiffure du régiment et le signe distinctif de la division sur la manche. **A2** La tenue de combat classique était pratiquement généralisée à cette date. Notez la Croix de Saint André, signe distinctif de la division sur la manche; sa couleur indique la brigade, ici la 15^{ème}; la marque sous la croix identifie le bataillon. **A3** Notez le ‘titre’ du régiment sur l'épaule, introduit récemment; Signe distinctif de la division; et ‘écusson’ du régiment au-dessous. **A4** Tenue de ‘sortie’; notez le képi de la couleur du régiment; titre non réglementaire en métal sur l'épaule; signe distinctif de la division et signe de grade dans les couleurs du régiment. **A5** Signe distinctif de la division, au-dessus signe distinctif d'identification de l'infanterie (rouge) et de la brigade dans la division (nombre de raies) au-dessus de l'écusson du régiment commémorant la 29^{ème} division de 1914–18.

B1 Inspection des troupes pour une remise de décorations; notez la coiffure du régiment, les signes distinctifs du régiment sur les manches de chemise et les signes distinctifs de la division sur ‘barrettes’ glissées sur pattes d'épaule. **B2** Notez le titre du régiment, le signe distinctif de la division, l'écusson du régiment, les chevrons indiquant au moins 12 ans de service et l'écusson de spécialité de mitrailleur léger. **B3** Cette unité d'artillerie, à l'origine les *Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders* a conservé ses ‘distinctions tribales’. **B4** Morceau d'étoffe portant les signes distinctifs de division et l'écusson du régiment porté sur la manche gauche uniquement.

C1 Morceau d'étoffe de ‘gros drap beige’ réglementaire derrière insigne sur béret écossais; insigne de division, au-dessus d'une raie rouge indiquant la brigade supérieure parmi les trois de la division—ici la 167^{ème} Brigade; et écusson du régiment des *London Scottish*. **C2** Notez le titre réglementaire, le signe distinctif de la 46th Inf.Div., les raies de la brigade d'infanterie et l'écusson de couleur réglementaire. Des barrettes de couleur sur les pattes d'épaule identifiaient les compagnies des bataillons: vert, rouge, jaune et violet pour ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ et ‘D’. La tenue de combat au Moyen-Orient avait une fermeture sous patte, mais des boutons de poche apparents et simples et la toile avait un aspect plus brut que d'autres modèles. **C3** Articles réglementaires comprenant béret irlandais ‘caubeen’, cordon, etc. **C4** Écusson transféré maintenant de la manche à la coiffure. **C5** Ces trois soldats irlandais portent le signe distinctifs de la 78th Inf.Div. et le trèfle vert de la 38th Inf.Bde. **C6** Signes distinctifs de la 1st Inf.Div. portés avec les distinctions réglementaires.

D1 Notez les signes distinctifs de la 5th Inf.Div. sur les manches, et le détail sur le cliché C. **D2** Signes distinctifs de la 1st Anti-Aircraft Division et de la Royal Artillery.

Farbtafeln

Aus Platzgründen und angesichts der weitgehend unmissverständlichen Rang-, Bataillons-, Regiments-, Brigade- und Divisionsbezeichnungen sei der Leser auf die englischen Bildunterschriften verwiesen.

A1 Service Dress der Vorkriegsjahre, noch 1939 verbreitet. Man beachte die Regimentsmütze und das Divisionsabzeichen auf dem Ärmel. **A2** Das inzwischen zur Standardausrüstung gehörende Battledress war fast universell. Man beachte das Andreaskreuz der Division auf dem Ärmel, dessen Farbe auf das Regiment verweist, in diesem Fall das 15th; das Zeichen unterhalb des Kreuzes identifiziert das Bataillon. **A3** Man beachte den jüngst eingeführten Regiments-title auf der Schulter, die Abzeichen der Division und den Regiments-flash darunter. **A4** Ausgheuniform; man beachte die Regimentsfarben der Mütze, den unvorschriftsmässigen Schulter-title aus Metall, die Divisionsabzeichen und die Rangabzeichen in den Regimentsfarben. **A5** Divisionsabzeichen über den Kennzeichen zur Identifizierung der Infanterie (rot) und der Brigade innerhalb der Division (Zahl der Streifen); darüber der Regiments-flash in Erinnerung an die 29th Div. von 1914–18.

B1 Er paradiert für die Ausstattung; man beachte die Kopfbedeckung des Regiments, die Regimentsabzeichen auf den Hemdsärmeln und die Divisionsabzeichen auf den slides über den Schulterriemen. **B2** Man beachte die Regiments-title, die Divisionsabzeichen, Regiments-flash, den Winkel für mindestens zwölf Dienstjahre und die Auszeichnung für leichte MG-Schützen. **B3** Diese Artillerie-Einheit, ursprünglich die *Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders*, behielt die auf ihre Herkunft verweisenden Kennzeichen. **B4** Stoffflicken mit dem Divisionsabzeichen und Regiments-flash, nur auf dem linken Ärmel getragen.

C1 Flicker im Hodden grey des Regiments hinter dem Abzeichen auf der Tam-o'-Shanter-Kappe getragen; das Divisionsabzeichen über dem roten Streifen, der die führende von drei Brigaden der Division anzeigt, in diesem Fall die 167th Bde.; dazu der London Scottish Regiments-flash. **C2** Man beachte den Regiments-title, das Abzeichen der 46th Inf.Div., die roten Infanterie-Streifen für die Brigade und der flash in Regimentsfarben. Farbige slides auf den Schulterriemen identifizierten die Kompanien innerhalb der Bataillone: grün, rot, gelb und purpur für ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ bzw. ‘D’. Battledress nach dem Muster für den Nahen Osten, mit Latzvorderseite, aber mit offen liegenden, einfachen Knöpfen, aus einem Material mit größerer Oberfläche als bei anderen Ausführungen. **C3** Zu der Regimentsausstattung gehören die irische caubeen-Haube, Achselschnur usw. **C4** Der Regiments-flash ist jetzt vom Ärmel auf die Kopfbedeckung übertragen. **C5** Alle drei irische Soldaten tragen Abzeichen der 78th Inf.Div. und das grüne Kleeblatt der 38th Inf.Bde. **C6** Abzeichen der 1st Inf.Div. mit Regimentszeichen.

D3 Écusson régimentaire porté sur des combinaisons de travail et sur le casque ce qui n'est pas commun. **D4** Képi de service en campagne de couleur régimentaire; des barrettes sur les pattes d'épaule identifient le quartier général du bataillon; titre sur l'épaule au-dessus des signes distinctifs de la division et écusson au-dessous, de modèle régimentaire et de modèle du bataillon respectivement. **D5** Signes distinctifs de brigade de cette brigade indépendante (c'est-à-dire ne faisant pas partie d'une division), portés seulement sur la manche gauche, un fait unique. **D6** Il porte un uniforme de patrouille, avec écusson de bataillon au-dessous du signe distinctif de la division. **D7** Un officier caractéristique en Normandie; titre réglementaire blanc sur rouge du régiment et signes distinctifs de la division. **D8** A cette date la 33rd Tank Brigade dans laquelle servait le 43rd Royal Tank Regiment faisait partie de la 3rd Division. Bérêt noir et raie rouge/jaune sur la manche, communs à toutes les unités des Royal Armoured Corps; insigne sur le bérêt et insigne blanc de 'char' sur la manche droite, communs à toutes les unités du Royal Tank Regiment; signes distinctifs de la division et de la brigade (en forme de X) portés ensemble et couleur de 43rd RTR portée sur les pattes d'épaule. **D9** Uniforme d'avant-guerre; écusson de couleur régimentaire sur casque colonial. **D10** Distinctions vertes d'un régiment de fusiliers; Képi de service armé porté dans le style du 'caubeen' irlandais; écusson régimentaire derrière insigne de képi; rubans aux couleurs de la compagnie sur les pattes d'épaule.

E1 Officier de char, avec ruban de bérêt régimentaire, insignes de bérêt et de col, rubans, titres et rubans sur pattes d'épaule; et signes distinctifs sur la manche de la 4th Armoured Brigade. **E2** Signes distinctifs sur la manche identifiant la 71st Inf. Bde de la 53rd (Welsh) Inf. Div.; les rubans de col sont une ancienne distinction régimentaire. **E3** Distinctions régimentaires comprenant un modèle de ruban unique. **E4** Les signes distinctifs sur la manche de la 49th Div. exceptés, toutes les distinctions sont régimentaires. **E5** Officier le 'jour-J', avec signes distinctifs de la 3rd Div. et écusson et ruban régimentaires. **E6** Insignes sur le col et le bérêt régimentaires et écusson; signes distinctifs de la 8th Independent Armoured Brigade.

F1 Signes distinctifs de la brigade sur la manche, insigne sur le bérêt régimentaire. **F2** Calot régimentaire, signes distinctifs de la SHAEF sur la manche, signes distinctifs du Corps des Transmissions sur la poitrine. **F3** Signes distinctifs de la 49th Div. et de la 56th Bde. portés ensemble, le premier au-dessus du dernier. **F4** Écusson régimentaire sur le bérêt et la manche. **F5** Le 4th KSLI portait encore le ruban de la croix de Guerre (entre le titre régimentaire et le signe distinctif de la division) en honneur de la distinction honorifique de 1918.

G1 Aviateur de raid du 'Chindit'—pas de signe distinctif; notez le camouflage peint du chapeau de brousse. **G2** Signes distinctifs de division; la ceinture noire, etc., était une distinction régimentaire. **G3** Signe distinctif de la 36th Inf. Div., deux cercles; 'insigne arrière' régimentaire et titre du Gloucester Regiment. **G4** Signes distinctifs épinglés de la 23rd Indian Division.

D1 Man beachte die Abzeichen der 5th Inf. Div. auf den Ärmeln; s.a. die Details auf Tafel C. **D2** Abzeichen der 1st Anti-Aircraft Division und der Royal Artillery. **D3** Der Regiments-flash wird hier ausnahmsweise auf dem Arbeitsanzug und dem Helm getragen. **D4** Field Service cap in Regimentsfarben; die slides auf den Schulterriemen identifizieren das Bataillonshauptquartier; der Schulter-title über dem Divisionsabzeichen und der flash darunter haben das Regiments-bzw. Bataillonsmuster. **D5** Das Abzeichen dieser unabhängigen, also nicht einer Division untergeordneten Brigade wird ausnahmsweise nur auf dem rechten Armel getragen. **D6** In der Bekleidung für Patrouillendienst wird der Bataillons-flash unter dem Divisionsabzeichen getragen. **D7** Ein typischer Offizier in der Normandie, mit vorschrittmäßigem Regiments-title und Divisionsabzeichen. **D8** Zu diesem Zeitpunkt war die 33rd Tank Brigade, in der das 43rd Royal Tank Regiment diente, war ein Teil der 3rd Division. Das schwarze Barret und die rot/gelben Streifen auf dem Ärmel waren allen Einheiten des Royal Armoured Corps gemeinsam; das Barrettabzeichen und das weisse Panzerabzeichen auf dem rechten Ärmel finden sich bei allen Einheiten des Royal Tank Regiment; die Divisions—und das x-förmige Brigadeabzeichen wurden zusammen getragen; die Farben des 43rd RTR finden sich auf den Schulterriemen. **D9** Uniform aus der Vorkriegszeit; flash in Regimentsfarben auf dem Sonnenhelm. **D10** Grünes Abzeichen eines Rifle-Regiments; General Service cap im Stil der irischen caubeen getragen; Regiments-flash hinter dem Mützenabzeichen; Schleifen auf den Schulterriemen in Farben der Kompanie.

E1 Panzeroffizier mit Regimentsbarrettband, -mütze und -kragenabzeichen, Achselschnur und titles sowie Schulterriemenstreifen und Ärmelabzeichen der 4th Armoured Brigade. **E2** Die Ärmelabzeichen identifizieren die 71st Inf. Bde. der 53rd (Welsh) Inf. Div.; die Kragenschleifen sind alte Regimentsabzeichen. **E3** Zu den Regimentsabzeichen gehören die ungewöhnlichen Achselschnüre. **E4** Alle Regimentsabzeichen, abgesehen vom Ärmelabzeichen der 49th Div. **E5** Offizier am 'D-Day' mit den Abzeichen der 3rd Div., dem Regiments-flash und Achselschnur. **E6** Regimentsbarrett- und Kragenabzeichen und flash; Abzeichen der 8th Independent Armoured Brigade.

F1 Brigade-Ärmelabzeichen und Regimentsbarrettband. **F2** Regiments-Feldmütze, SHAEF-Ärmelabzeichen, Signals-Brustabzeichen. **F3** Abzeichen der 49th Div. und 56th Bde. zusammen getragen, letztere oben. **F4** Sowohl Mütze als auch Ärmel tragen Regiments-flashes. **F5** Die 4th KSLI trug in Erinnerung an die Auszeichnung von 1918 nach wie vor die Croix de Guerre Schleife (zwischen dem Regiments-title und dem Divisionsabzeichen).

G1 'Chindit'-Nahkampfspezialist ohne Abzeichen; man beachte den mit Farbe getarnten Buschhelm. **G2** Divisionsabzeichen; der schwarze Gürtel u.a. waren Regimentszeichen. **G3** Abzeichen der 36th Inf. Div., zwei Kreise; Regiments-back badge und title des Gloucestershire Regiment. **G4** Anstecknadel der 23rd Indian Division.

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ISBN 0-85045-739-4



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